

Minutes of the Lawrence County Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting September 3, 2024

Board Members Present: Lucas Hunt, Chairman, Judy Heffington, Secretary, Mignon Beard, Jane Jennings, Brent McKamey, and Nancy Brewer

Library Staff Present: Director Teresa Newton, Assistant Director Marie Brennan

Regional Library Present: Anne Osborne

Lucas called the meeting to order and asked for public comments. No public comments were made. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the July meeting. Motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.

Agenda Topics:

Old Business:

- A copy of the budget for 2024-25 was given to the board members to peruse. A 3% raise was awarded from the county employees.

New Business:

- Officers were elected for FY 2024/25. They are Lucas Hunt, Chairman; Brent McKamey, Vice-Chairman; Judy Heffington, Secretary.
- The current financial report was reviewed.
- Lucas reported the search for a new library director is to begin. A search committee was suggested by Regional Director Marion Bryant. Jane Jennings will be heading the group. Others involved with the committee are Lucas, Brent, and Mignon. The Tennessee Library Association, the library listserv for Tennessee libraries, and colleges will be contacted with a job description for the position. ALA and PLA charge to post. Anne will post as well at the Regional Library level.

LOCAL REPORT:

- Teresa reported a new part time staff member, Angie Hartsfield, has been hired.
- Several events occurred recently regarding "unusual" phone calls and a vulgar email from a "concerned citizen". The IT manager for the county blocked any further messages from the address.
- The Summer Reading Program was well attended and the "best ever" according to Teresa.
- Marie's NASA space program was also well attended with a total of 50 teens participating. A suggestion was made to repeat the program for adults.
- Teresa and Marie spoke at a recent Kiwanis Club meeting with great feedback from the group.
- Police removed a camp that had been set up at the back of the Library Green by a homeless person.

- Toddler Time and Adult Crafting are back on the schedule after the summer reading program was completed. The No Pressure Book Group and the Last Thursday Book Group both are going well.
- The Friends book sale will run for two weeks ending on September 14.
- A retirement party is scheduled for December 19 celebrating Teresa's retirement.
- In August \$1,000 of the library budget was spent on Hoopla. Gladish money was used to start the service (\$15,000). Charlie Holt, trustee of the Gladish Family Trust, has given the county a check for an additional \$15,000 to extend the hoopla account. However, the budget director will not issue a purchase order to spend the funds until the County Commission meets in September and votes on budget amendments. Based on download information, audio books are checked out most. Ebooks also are popular. Presently, 15 books per person is the limit. However, a monthly Hoopla report shows approximately 5 people checking out 15 items within a month. The "READS" program is being encouraged.
- Teresa announced 583 items have been added to the library since the July meeting.

Regional Report

- Anne announced meetings/workshops coming up. One suggestion was Restoring Harmony for all the library staff members to attend.
- Lawrence County will be represented at the Trustees Workshop at the Brentwood Library featuring Marie's NASA Program. A group of trustees will be attending on September 19.

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Judy Heffington, Secretary.