

**Wicomico Public Libraries
Board of Trustees Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 15, 2021**

Start time: 3:58 PM

In Attendance: Audrey Orr, Chip Dashiell, Karen Treber, George Demko, PhD, Maida Finch, PhD, Michele Canopii, PhD, H. Scott Duncan, PhD, Richard Keenan, PhD, Michele Sclehofer, PhD, John Cannon, County Council Representative, and Angela Blake, City Council Representative

Staff in Attendance: Cheryl Nardiello, Bobbi Schreiber, DeMyra Harvey, Aurelio Giannitti

Guests: Joe Holloway, Wicomico County Council, Farah Yahya, Brian Bergen-Aurand

Cheryl Nardiello introduced two new staff members, DeMyra Harvey, Project Read Coordinator and Aurelio Gianitti, Grant Writer. They each said a few words of introduction.

Maida Finch introduced the two new Board Members, Brian Bergen-Aurand and Farah Yahya. Their term will begin on July first, the beginning of our fiscal year.

Joe Holloway, Wicomico County Council Member, attended the meeting to inquire as to why the offer of a building in Pittsville to house a new library was not accepted by the library. The building had been the home to an auto repair business. This building had been offered in early 2020, but, as explained by Richard Keenan, who had toured the building with Ashley Teagle, former Executive Director, and Sean Stearns, former IT Director, the building would need some renovations that might not have been feasible. In particular, climate control and internet access could present problems. Covid hit right after this visit and then, Ms. Teagle resigned, leaving the library without an Executive Director. We need a director in place to make this type of commitment and a feasibility study would also be needed. While in the process of researching a company to do that, it was discovered that ESRL had been planning to conduct one such study in the near future and would include all the libraries on the eastern shore. It was decided that the library would wait for that to be done. There is still a possibility that the library could accept the offer of the building and Mr. Holloway indicated that all his concerns had been addressed.

Building Committee: George Demko

Dr. Demko met with Joe Mangini, Pittsville Town Manager and Sean McHugh, President of the Town Commission, regarding a parcel on the east side of Pittsville that is going to a tax sale. The property consists of four acres and could be available as early as this summer.

Previous Minutes: Motion to Approve: Chip Dashiell **Seconded by:** Richard Keenan **Motion Approved**

Reports:

The following reports were reviewed by Cheryl Nardiello: **Gift & Memorial, Donations and Statistics.**

Grant Report: Aurelio Giannitti

The two grants that have recently been applied for are the United Way Partner and the LSTA ARPA Grants. The United Way Grant normally awards quite a bit less than asked for so the amount was increased from past years. The LSTA would be for a brand new "Mobile Media Center" which would include the vehicle, equipment and supplies for a moving STEM classroom. This amount was found by researching similar vehicles that are being used elsewhere.

Friends Report: Richard Keenan

Dr. Keenan reported that the Friends Steering Committee met on June 8, 2021 where he and Audrey Orr reviewed their presentation to County Council. Ms. Orr spoke about the many programs available at the Library and Dr. Keenan went over the schedule of times the Library was open and the requirements at each stage. The Library followed the guidance of the Governor throughout the pandemic.

They also discussed the possibility of a Library Book Sale and it was decided that there will be a "mini" book sale during the Folk Festival. The Book Shelf will be open and the sale will extend into the Lobby. There was also some discussion of a book sale in the Library November 12-14. The details of this are still being considered.

He also reported that there are no other fundraising projects going on right now. As always, there is concern for new members for the Friends of the Library and Dr. Keenan wants to encourage all Board Members to join. He even distributed applications to everyone.

The Bookshelf is up and running and everything is going smoothly with that.

Executive Director Hiring Committee: Karen Treber

Ms. Treber revealed that Seth Hershberger has been hired and will begin on July 19th, 2021. The staff will be informed officially tomorrow on StaffWeb. Cheryl shared the press release that she will be sending out tomorrow.

Cheryl Nardiello reviewed the **Head Administrator Report and the Budget Report** for April & May.

County Council Report: John Cannon

Mr. Cannon reported that the Council passed the Library Budget with minimal cuts. The income tax receipts for Wicomico County are looking positive but they are not sure why.

The County Council has approved Mr. Cannon's continued commitment to the Library Board.

City Council Report: Angela Blake

Ms. Blake reported that the City Council meetings are back in person as of June 14th, 2021 but can also be attended via Zoom. She discussed Pride Month and the importance of inclusion. The crosswalks near the library are being repainted on June 26th and there will be some pride events on Third Friday, June 18th. She also mentioned Salisbury Open Data Hub which was just launched. It is a site where one can find all types of information about the city and events coming up.

She discussed, in detail, Choices Academy, which is an alternative school where children in middle school and high school can attend when they are experiencing various types of difficulties. She would like to have the Bookmobile start a program there. The school services the needs of children who have behavioral issues as well as disabilities and health concerns and can also serve to transition children from other facilities on the way to returning to traditional middle school or high school

New Business:

Cheryl presented the budget for fiscal year 2022 to the Board for approval. We were given a 4% increase from the County and the State of Maryland, most of which went to the salaries of employees. Most things in the budget remain similar to last year other than a few things where there could be a price increase, such as phones.

There was also discussion of other funds held by the Library, such as the Building Fund as well as the Gifts & Memorial Fund. Ms. Orr made a motion to approve the budget and Dr. Demko seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The signage on the building needs to be replaced and the renaming of the branch needs to be acknowledged. There was much discussion about both signs, especially the "The Paul S. Sarbanes Branch" sign. The consensus was the sign would be placed in each corner of the building just below the "Library" sign that is already there.

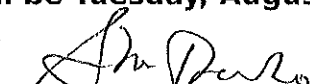
The new positions of the Board Members for the new fiscal year were named and voted on. Audrey Orr is the Chair, Chip Dashiell is the Vice Chair, George Demko remains as the Secretary and Karen Treber is Treasurer. Dr. Keenan made the motion, Dr. Canopii seconded and the motion carried.

Cheryl submitted a proposal for the funds for the new signage on the outside of the building. A motion was made to approve the signage by Dr. Keenan, seconded by Dr. Duncan and motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Next Meeting will be Tuesday, August 17, at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Dr. George Demko, Secretary