

Botetourt County Library Board of Trustees

Minutes

April 21, 2021

Public Meeting - 2:00-3:00pm

Greenfield County Administrative Offices

Present: Barbara Hawkins, Julie Phillips, Rob Poyner, Marlene Preston, Linda Steger

Unable to attend: Steve Clinton, Mary Lynne Leffel

Call to order: 2:00

Minutes: February minutes were approved electronically and posted on the Library website: <https://web.botetourtva.gov/library/about/board-of-trustees/>

Board Status – Governing vs. Advisory

Marlene Preston reported on the efforts to change the designation of the Board from governing to advisory. No action was taken formally to get the matter on the agenda for the spring legislative session, so an appeal will be made to the Board of Supervisors on April 27 to (1) make a formal recommendation as part of the next legislative session and (2) consider an interim step by acknowledging the County as the governing body for the library system with the Board serving in an advisory capacity.

Summer Learning Challenge

Jaime Duval offered an enthusiastic preview of the 2021 Summer Learning Challenge:

- Based on good participation last year the library will continue with Beanstack as a provider.
- Theme -- Reading Colors Your World
- Books and activities, along with some activity kits, are grouped by topic, including arts and diversity.
- Participants accrue points, and a drawing will be held at end of summer to reward participation.
- The program is designed for family participation; adults and children are eligible.
- The Summer Learning Challenge coordinates with the school system and school librarians. A video highlighting the program will be created to be shown at the schools.
- Last year's popular "story walk" will be developed again this summer as a bilingual project, related to the theme, with participation opportunities.
- Geocaching will also be included as an activity.

- The staff is working to enhance social media and to develop other media outlets in order to promote the programs. Handouts will also be available for distribution by various groups.

Director's Report

Julie Phillips provided an update on library activities:

- Summer programming has required considerable effort recently along with staff participation in coordinating vaccine appointments for patrons.
- Blue Ridge carpeting has been completed.
- On May 3, the new manager at Blue Ridge will begin her employment there. She comes to Botetourt from Roanoke County and is very experienced.
- Two part-time positions are open--Blue Ridge and Fincastle.
- Reopening June 1 – The staff can't enforce limits on capacity, masks, spacing. Arrangements in library branches won't encourage long stays.
- The quarantine time for returned books is currently at 48 hours, but new information shows only the slightest possibility of getting Covid from books. The staff will have cleaning time available before opening each day.

Trustee Training

As part of the Board's review of "Short Takes" about roles for library boards, Rob Poyner discussed strategic planning. His handout charted types of organizational plans, and he indicated that such plans might include short-term and contingency plans. The focus for strategic planning is on a realistic plan across time, not just the development of a wish list. Julie Phillips indicated that the three-year plan for our library system is in progress. The plan will focus on connections and will be reflective of the County's plan and community input.

Adjournment – 3:05

Next meeting -- June 16, 2021
