

## **Botetourt County Library Board of Trustees**

**Minutes March 22, 2023**

Public Meeting -- 2:00 -- Buchanan

**Present:** Steve Clinton, Mary Lynne Leffel, Julia Patterson, Julie Phillips, Brandi Porter, and Marlene Preston

**Unable to Attend:** Chris Becke

**Call to order:** 12:00

**Minutes:** Previous minutes were approved electronically and posted on the Library website: <https://www.botetourtva.gov/AgendaCenter/Library-Board-of-Trustees-2>

### **Public comment**

No public comment was offered; the scheduled speaker canceled. Trustees briefly discussed issue of automatic renewals, a mechanism that can't be discontinued unless for the whole consortium. This feature is popular among most patrons.

### **Buchanan branch manager update -- Cheryl Wagner**

Cheryl Wagner enthusiastically provided highlights about the Buchanan branch, including the following:

- Comments from patrons – positive feedback about space, engagement, entertainment
- Increased circulation
- Upcoming programming
- Great staff energy and welcoming attitude

Julie Phillips also shared that the architect is still working on plans for updates, including the redesign of the front of building.

### **Quality of Life survey results -- Julie Phillips**

Trustees received data from the Quality of Life Survey before the meeting, but they hadn't had much time to process the information. The discussion included the following comments:

- Can we group comments by zip code?
- Emphasis on arts, crafts, hobbies
- Interest in ag education
- Lower interest in technology, but results may not be widely representative of the Count population
- Some people unaware of services currently offered
- Others looking for social interaction
- Interest in Citizen's Academy

**Director's update – Julie Phillips – Please see attached**

**Adjournment – 1:10**

**Next Meeting –  
(April meeting cancelled)  
May 10, 2023 at noon**

**Attachment – Director’s Report – Julie Phillips**

- With Board approval, all library branches will close on Monday, May 1st, for the library's first Staff Development Day for all library staff.
- Julie Phillips attended a 3-day TFSX (The Futures School X) training to learn strategic foresight, the practice of constantly scanning for trends, identifying patterns, anticipating possible futures, and aligning resources accordingly.
- Rachel McEldowney (Buchanan part-time) has accepted the full-time Youth Service Coordinator position at Blue Ridge. She will start on Monday, April 3.
- The Botetourt Kiwanis Club is pursuing involvement with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library for Botetourt (free books to children). They reached out to libraries as a partner in raising awareness. Kiwanis already regularly support the "1,000 Things Before Kindergarten Program."
- Two upcoming Kiwanis fundraisers for Libraries:
  - Late April (TBD) - dinner at Stoneybrook
  - Sat, May 20 - recycling event at Lord Botetourt
- Libby (Overdrive ebooks/eaudiobooks) - patrons can place purchase requests in the app (up to a max number).
- Digital Navigators - An internal task force will develop a scalable, targeted approach to support broadband expansion with digital literacy education
- Libraries posted an online guide and will raise awareness of research services related to citizens who want to preserve their historic properties, in concert with the County's Historical Properties Commission (BCCC). Sarah Rodgers (Fincastle Branch Manager) is the primary contact for local history resources.
- Sarah Rodgers is the new facilitator for Botetourt's local working group planning for the statewide 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Revolutionary War.
- Eagle Rock will hold Ag Day from 10am-2pm on Saturday, celebrating local agriculture.
- All branches will host a T-Rex Tea Party, teaching table manners to kids ages 4-8.
- The library has received a reconsideration request for 12 titles, now in progress with the Reconsideration Committee. The process is expected to take about 3 months to complete.