

Botetourt County Library Board of Trustees
Minutes April 13, 2022
Public Meeting - 2:00-3:00 pm
Fincastle

Present: Steve Clinton, Barbara Hawkins, Julie Phillips, Julia Patterson, Rob Poyner, Marlene Preston

Unable to attend: Mary Lynne Leffel

Call to order: 2:00

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

Public Comment –None

Director’s Update – Julie Phillips

- **Staff**
 - **Blue Ridge** – Manager Amanda Taylor has resigned and is leaving April 29. The job posting will be available soon. Ellen Cowell, who works part time at Fincastle, will switch to full time at Blue Ridge in the interim. Angela Knoblock changed to full time.
 - **Fincastle** -- New part-time hire: Jarod Weaver
- **Integrated library System Software** – Contracts have been signed by the consortium for our early adoption of this system.
- **Inventory** – All branches are conducting first inventory in many years and should finish in April
- **Covid Tests**—Free tests are again available and should be distributed through June.
- **Summer Learning Challenge** – Available May to August to overlap with ending and beginning of school so that teachers can help to involve the students. The theme, Beyond the Beaten Path, will emphasize outdoor activities as the libraries partner with Parks and Rec.
- **Buchanan** – The architects are still providing estimates for the renovation.
- **Professional memberships** -- All library staff are now members of VLA, ALA and four ALA divisions (YALSA, PLA, CORE, and ALSC). Library trustees are also welcome to use these resources. The entire team has the opportunity to increase knowledge and improve services by exposure to professional training and networking.
- **Social Media** -- Engagement increased 119%, thanks to Amanda Taylor. Her plan is scheduled through the summer.

Community Connections

Homeschoolers – Rob Poyner added to his previous report about the needs of homeschoolers, including the use of meeting rooms, painting classes for kids, and the return of legos. Julie

explained that the lego clubs are on the radar and that managers are considering replacing some outdated and worn toys.

Board Structure – Given the information that arose from the discussions with various groups in the community, the trustees revisited earlier discussions about ways to expand the Board’s connections. The trustees decided not to make a formal request to enlarge the board, but to use ad hoc groups as issues arise.

Library Three-year Strategic Plan Overview – Julie Phillips

The strategic plan will focus on the following stages over the course of three years:

1. **Learn** – This first stage will focus on helping the community learn about the services we already offer and also on collecting data from the community about other services people may want or need.
2. **Grow** – The second stage will include growth based on the information collected in the first stage.
3. **Share** – Finally, the libraries will focus on ways to share information and to create spaces to meet needs.

As she discussed these stages, Julie pointed out the following:

- Surveys show people want more space and resources that we already have.
- Staff development is necessary to build the confidence of staff, not only in providing information but also in identifying resources and/or experts to assist patrons.
- We need to be thoughtful, creative about delivering books to a citizenry accustomed to overnight delivery from major retailers.
- We may need to expand services to provide services that we don’t currently offer.
- People always ask for more technology support

The trustees discussed library locations, visibility/signage, seating space, sharing stories, and the use of *Fincastle Herald* articles.

Virginia Library Association Membership – Julie Phillips

Trustees have access to many materials, including webinars and toolkits from the VLA. Marlene Preston will discuss policies based on those resources at our next meeting.

Adjournment: 3:00 pm

Next Meeting:
Third Wednesday (date change)-- May 18, 2022, 2:00 at Greenfield
June Meeting -- canceled