

**RUTHERFORD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF MEETING
Monday, July 17, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tim Bowling	Tansy Raynor
Lauren Brandon	Steve Sullivan
Larry Flowers	Kory Wells
Rollie Holden, Jr.	Shawn Wright
Phil King	Cody York

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rita Shacklett, Director, RCLS	Donna Jordon, Branch Supervisor, Eagleville
Carol Ghattas, Branch Manager, Linebaugh	Kathleen Tyree, Branch Manager, TEC Library
Ginger Graves, Branch Manager, Smyrna Library	Kate Huddleston, Director, SRRL
Mindy Barrett, Branch Supervisor, MGL Library	Bearl Beasley, President, FOLL
Trey Gwinn, RCLS Staff	Elsa Britt, Recorder
	Lauren Gallina, RCLS Staff

Rebecca Calahan, Public
Beth Cox, Public
Talitha Cox, Public
Tiffany Fee, Public
Matthew Fee, Public
Samantha Luchtefeld, Public

OTHERS ABSENT:

Theresa Pickett, President, FOSL
Beth Wheeler, President, FOEL

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CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rutherford County Library System was called to order by Mr. Sullivan, Chair, on Monday, July 17, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at the Technology Engagement Center (TEC).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: None.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:

The Minutes of Meeting held on June 5, 2023, stand as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA: None.

At this point, Mr. Sullivan revised the order of the agenda by bringing up “Other Business” in consideration of the 2 presenters.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. S.L.A.T.E. Presentation by Trey Gwinn. This is a program that started in 2022 from a grant given by West End Home Foundation designed to end digital isolation in senior citizens of Tennessee. The program has ended, and Mr. Gwinn talked about its accomplishments, the number of senior citizens served, as well as the program's positive impact for the library system as a whole.

2. Aspen Discovery (Online Catalog) Demonstration. Ms. Gallina demonstrated the new platform for the RCLS online catalog highlighting its unique features.

3. Mr. Sullivan addressed the Murfreesboro City Ordinance No. 23-0-22: the "Community Decency Standards Ordinance." Board officers have met with the Murfreesboro City Manager, library system managers and supervisors, and the RCLS Collection Development Coordinator, to better understand the impact and scope of the ordinance. Major points Mr. Sullivan made were:

- 3.1 The ordinance is law, and the board is obligated to operate the library system under the law.
- 3.2 The ordinance applies to minors only, and include only books classified as young adult, juvenile, and children.
- 3.3 The ordinance has an accounting element which means that it will impact not only book purchases, but also the housing, cataloging, and distribution of books. Because of the integrated nature of our system, the ordinance affects all branches.
- 3.4 Our current materials reconsideration process remains in effect, although there will likely need to be tweaks to our processes and policies to refer to the new ordinance. We are asking the director to begin reporting on all such requests as they come in.

4. Mr. Sullivan presented the Committee Assignments for July 2023 – June 2024.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

Budget and Finance: Mr. Bowling made motions regarding the following items:

- To approve the financial reports for the month of June 2023. Mr. Holden seconded. Those who were present voted "aye." Motion carried.
- To reallocate funding in the FY2022-2023 budget to balance the line items as required by the auditor. This action is done at the end of every fiscal year. Ms. Wells seconded. Those who were present voted "aye." Motion carried.
- To retain the bookkeeping services of Darnell CPA for another year. Mr. Wright seconded. Those who were present voted "aye." Motion carried.
- To approve the amended budget for FY 2023-2024 as presented. Mr. Holden seconded. Those who were present voted "aye." Motion carried.

Personnel Committee: Mr. Bowling had nothing to report at this time.

By-Laws & Policies: Mr. Wright had nothing to report at this time, but the committee will convene soon to recommend any adjustments to the bylaws and policies of the library system, especially in regards to the Community Decency Standards Ordinance.

Nominating: Mr. Flowers informed the Board that the newly appointed representative of the City of Murfreesboro board member, Vicki Twitty, had resigned. The committee then reviewed 2 applications received, and voted for Maggie Thorn to be recommended by the Board to the City of Murfreesboro. However,

the City of Murfreesboro has a candidate scheduled to be voted on by the City Council on July 20, 2023, thus, Ms. Thorn's application is withdrawn and will be kept on file.

Mr. Sullivan clarified that the funding bodies appoint their representatives that make up the RCLS Library Board: City of Murfreesboro – 4 representatives (including a councilmember), Town of Smyrna – 2 representatives (including a councilmember), City of Eagleville – 1 representative, and Rutherford County – 4 representatives. A total of 11 board members.

Development & Acquisitions:

- Mr. King reported the Linebaugh Public Library has a sculpture titled "Girl's Head" given to the library by Margaret White in 1994 currently valued at \$350.00 (photo was emailed to the Board). The Beesley Animal Foundation is interested in having the sculpture if the library is willing to part with it. Mr. King made a motion to approve the donation of the sculpture "Girl's Head" to the Beesley Animal Foundation. Mr. Wright seconded. Those who were present voted "aye." Motion carried.
- The Joyce Malone bequest update: The remaining funds are being liquidated in the amount of approximately \$1,200.00. Mr. King made a motion to turn over the remaining funds, once received, to the Rutherford County Library Foundation. Mr. Wright seconded. Those who were present voted "aye." Motion carried.

Strategic Planning: Ms. Wells had nothing to report at this time.

Facility Maintenance: Mr. Holden had nothing to report at this time.

REPORTS FROM LIBRARIES & SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS:

Linebaugh Library: Reports were submitted in the packet. This is Ms. Ghattas last report/attendance to the Board meeting as she submitted her retirement effective July 31, 2023.

MGL Library: Reports were submitted in the packet.

Technology Engagement Center (TEC): Reports were submitted in the packet.

Bookmobile (BKM): Reports were submitted in the packet.

Historical Research Center (HRC): Reports were submitted in the packet. Ms. Shacklett requested the Board's approval to advertise a surplus desk and a filing cabinet to the TN-Libraries listserv to be offered to other libraries in TN. It has been offered to other branches but no takers. Mr. Sullivan made a motion to approve the request. Ms. Wells seconded. Those who were present voted "aye." Motion carried.

Friends of Linebaugh Library (FOLL): Mr. Beasley's reports were submitted in the packet.

Smyrna Public Library (SPL): Reports were submitted in the packet. Ms. Graves added that some SPL staff submitted their comments/questions concerning the Community Decency Standards Ordinance. Mr. Sullivan and the Board assured staff that whatever approaches the Board takes to abide by the letter of the ordinance, it will be to protect staff, and the Board will take responsibility on any actions the staff may have done inadvertently or without malicious intent.

Friends of Smyrna Library (FOSL): Ms. Pickett was absent. Reports were submitted in the packet.

Eagleville Library: Reports were submitted in the packet. Ms. Jordon reported an unforeseen schedule conflict with the Eagleville Community Center's meeting room for the RCLS Board meeting in August. Mr. York made a motion to allow Ms. Shacklett to set the location and the date of the August 2023 Board meeting. Mr. Wright seconded. Those who were present voted "aye." Motion carried.

Friends of Eagleville Library (FOEL): FOEL's activities were included in Ms. Jordan's report.

Rutherford County Library System (RCLS): Reports were submitted in the packet. Mr. Sullivan awarded Ms. Ghattas a token of the Board's appreciation for her dedicated service to the Linebaugh Public and to RCLS as a whole.

Foundation: Nothing to report at this time. The Foundation will meet on Wednesday, August 16, 2023.

Stones River Regional Library (SRRL): Reports were submitted in the packet.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

This is the first time the "Public Comments" was included in the Agenda. Normally, there is a process that must be adhered to before one can speak. But as several members of the public were present, Mr. Sullivan opened the floor to anyone who would like to speak.

1. Matthew Fee shared concerns about:
 - The unintended consequences of the Murfreesboro ordinance impacting what books may be purchased for Smyrna or Eagleville libraries.
 - The Board needs to be transparent when book titles are being considered for reconsideration.
2. Talitha Cox asked:
 - Can a patron with a juvenile card check out books from the adult section?

Discussions followed after this question.

After lengthy deliberations, Mr. York made a motion for Ms. Shacklett to investigate from a technical perspective how to limit the ability of minor card holders to check out adult books. Mr. Wright seconded.

After another vigorous discussion, Mr. Wright withdrew his second to the motion to study its legality.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.