

**RUTHERFORD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
Monday, September 18, 2023**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tim Bowling	Steve Sullivan
Lauren Brandon	Kory Wells
Rollie Holden, Jr.	Shawn Wright
Phil King	Cody York
Dina Piazza	

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Tansy Raynor

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Rita Shacklett, Director, RCLS	Kathleen Tyree, Branch Manager, TEC Library
Mindy Barrett, Branch Manager, Linebaugh Library	Kate Huddleston, Director, SRRL
Kristen Birckholtz, Branch Supervisor, MGL Library	Bearl Beasley, President, FOLL
Donna Jordon, Branch Supervisor, Eagleville Library	Elsa Britt, Recorder

**OTHERS ABSENT:**

Ginger Graves, Branch Manager, Smyrna Library

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (who signed in):**

Matthew Fee	Katie Peachey	Emily Gilreath
Tiffany Fee	Jessica Bruce	Cindy Robinson
Keri Lambert	Colby Vinson	Oceana Glantz
Beth Cox	Jason Vance	Renay Zamora
Talitha Cox	Amanda Caperton	Diana Caser
Kathryn (no last name)	Monique Watson	Lori Lewis
Rebecca Calahan	Ronda Bratton	Susan Todd
Kathy Boudreau	Mariah Phillips	

**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, September 18, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at the Rutherford County Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 1 Public Square, Murfreesboro, TN.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER/S:** (none)

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (for action items on agenda):**

1. Talitha Cox, a Rutherford County resident and library card holder, spoke in favor of removing *Sex is a Funny Word* from the RCLS collection.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:**

The Minutes of Meeting held on August 28, 2023, were presented for approval. There being no corrections, revisions, or changes, Mr. Wright made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Mr. King seconded. Those who were present voted “aye.” Motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** None.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD**

**Budget and Finance:** Mr. Bowling presented the financial reports for the months of July and August 2023 and made a motion for their acceptance. Mr. Wright seconded. Those who were present voted “aye.” Motion carried.

**By-Laws & Policies:** Mr. Wright sought board members’ opinions concerning how committees of the board can best implement the requirements of recently updated open meeting laws in Tennessee. Board members agreed on the following protocol, which will be incorporated into policy:

- Committee meetings are open meetings, therefore, public comments for action items are required.
- Committees will allow a maximum of five (5) speakers, each of whom can speak for three (3) minutes or less, for a total of fifteen (15) minutes.
- Committee meetings may be included in a full library board meeting, with committee chairs running their section, subject to these guidelines:
  - \* If the committee chair determines the subject matter to be discussed requires a simple process or simple review, then it will be listed on the agenda, presented, and voted on.
  - \* If for any reason a discussion becomes lengthy, a breakout session will be adopted, and a separate committee meeting will be scheduled.
  - \* If a committee anticipates major work, such as extensive policy changes, budget discussions, or other complex issues, then it will be best to have a separate meeting which will be publicly announced and include a public comments period.

**Development & Acquisitions:** Mr. King had nothing to report at this time.

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

**Nominating:** Mr. Sullivan announced that Mr. Flowers, who was Nominating Committee chair, submitted his resignation effective September 15, 2023, so he has not yet had a chance to appoint a new chair. Ms. Shacklett will notify the County of the open position

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

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

**Ad Hoc Committee:** Mr. Bowling had nothing to report at this time.

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**REPORTS FROM LIBRARIES & SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS:**

**Linebaugh Library:** Reports were submitted in the packet. This was Mindy Barrett's first meeting as the new Linebaugh Branch Manager.

**MGL Library:** Reports were submitted in the packet. This was Kristen Birckholtz's first meeting as the new MGL Branch Supervisor.

**Technology Engagement Center (TEC):** Reports were submitted in the packet. Ms. Tyree requested the Board's approval to take out \$1,250.00 from the TEC's end-of-year fund balance, if necessary, to pay for the replacement of the backflow prevention device. Mr. Holden made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Wright seconded. Those who were present voted "aye." Motion carried.

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

**Historical Research Center (HRC):** Reports were submitted in the packet.

**Friends of Linebaugh Library (FOLL):** Mr. Beasley's reports were submitted in the packet, and he added that FOLL had a book sale on Saturday, September 16, 2023 and collected close to \$1,000.00.

**Smyrna Public Library (SPL):** Ms. Graves was absent. Reports were submitted in the packet.

**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 requested the Board's permission to take funds not to exceed \$900.00 from the Eagleville library's end-of-year fund balance, if necessary, to pay for the vinyl baseboard, air deflector, slat walls, bookshelf, and printer stand. Mr. York made a motion to approve the request. Ms. Wells seconded. Those who were present voted "aye." Motion carried.

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

**Rutherford County Library System (RCLS):** Reports were submitted in the packet. Ms. Shacklett mentioned that the juvenile, young adult, and adult cards should be set up and ready to go by the October Board meeting. Ms. Shacklett also highlighted from her reports Ms. Susan Todd, who celebrated her 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the RCLS. Ms. Todd, a full-time Cataloger, is very knowledgeable about cataloging standards and practices and crafts detailed records of our materials, which helps patrons find what they need. Also, Kristl Johnson, a part time Cataloger, recently celebrated 5 years with RCLS. As a newer cataloger, Ms. Johnson is invested in learning guidelines and making resources discoverable. Ms. Shacklett thanked them for their service to the RCLS and to the community for their hard work behind the scenes.

**Foundation:** Nothing to add to the written reports.

**Stones River Regional Library (SRRL):** Reports were submitted in the packet. Ms. Huddleston recognized the following:

- Mr. King and Ms. Piazza for attending the Trustees Workshop.
- Taylor Love, for completing the Core Competencies (a state training program for 10 hours).
- Carol Ghattas, to be presented with a certificate of recognition for her retirement.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (for general comments, non-agenda items):**

1. Keri Lambert, a Murfreesboro resident and library card holder, commented on a remark made by a Board member at the last Board meeting about “re-training staff,” and spoke to the importance of the American Library Association the Library Bill of Rights, and professional staff to maintaining the institutional precedents of our local library system.
2. Mariah Phillips, a Smyrna resident and library card holder, expressed concern about the sudden move toward banning books and reminded the Board that they represent the entire community, including the queer community, when they make decisions

**OTHER BUSINESS**

➤ Requests for reconsideration of the following books were individually discussed:

1. *Queen Charlotte* by Julia Quinn and Shonda Rhimes (Adult Fiction). Staff recommended it remain where it is. Mr. Wright made a motion to approve the recommendation. Ms. Wells seconded. Those who were present voted “aye.” Motion carried.

(Note: Neither the decency ordinance nor the TN state law apply to adult materials.)

2. *Sex is a Funny Word* by Cory Silverberg and Fiona Smyth (J 613.9071). Staff recommended it be moved to adult non-fiction. Ms. Wells made a motion to approve the recommendation. Mr. Bowling seconded. A roll call was made after discussion:

NAME	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN
Bowling, Tim	√		
Brandon, Lauren			√
Holden, Rollie Jr.	√		
King, Phil	√		
Piazza, Dina			√
Wells, Kory	√		
Wright, Shawn	√		
York, Cody	√		
<b>TOTAL</b>	6	0	2

Six (6) “ayes” and two (2) “abstains.” The “ayes” have it. Motion carried.

(Note: In anticipation of future reconsideration requests, Board members expressed interest in seeking legal opinion/guidance from city or district attorney offices regarding more clarification on the definitions in the applicable laws.)

➤ Next month’s Board meeting will be on October 16, 2023, at 5 pm at the same location, the Rutherford County Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor courtroom.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.