

**RUTHERFORD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF MEETING
Monday, October 16, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rita Shacklett, Director, RCLS	Kate Huddleston, Director, SRRL
Ginger Graves, Branch Manager, Smyrna Library	
Kristen Birckholtz, Branch Supervisor, MGL Library	Elsa Britt, Recorder
Donna Jordon, Branch Supervisor, Eagleville Library	

OTHERS ABSENT:

Mindy Barrett, Branch Manager, Linebaugh Library
Kathleen Tyree, Branch Manager, TEC Library
Bearl Beasley, President, FOLL

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (who signed in):

Matthew Fee	Jason Vance	Talitha Cox	Lori Lewis
Tiffany Fee	Oceana Glantz	Beth Cox	Susan Todd
Kathy Boudreau	Keri Lambert	Kristen West	

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, October 16, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at the Rutherford County Courthouse, 2nd Floor, 1 Public Square, Murfreesboro, TN.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER/S:

Mr. Sullivan welcomed Ms. Laurie Cantrell as a new board member representing the Town of Smyrna. Ms. Cantrell is finishing the term of Tansy Raynor, which will expire on June 30, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (action items on agenda): None.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:

The Minutes of Meeting held on September 18, 2023, were presented for approval. There being no corrections, revisions, or changes, Mr. King made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Mr. Wright 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 month ending September 30, 2023, and made a motion for their acceptance. Ms. Wells seconded. Those who were present voted “aye.” Motion carried.

By-Laws & Policies: Mr. Wright presented minor revisions to PM 201 – Borrowing Privileges, and PM 205 – Confidentiality of Records. Both were included in the board packet. Mr. King made a motion to approve revisions to both policies with grammatical corrections to PM 201 – Borrowing Privileges – as suggested by Ms. Wells. Ms. Wells seconded. Those who were present voted “aye.” Motion carried.

Ms. Shacklett noted those corrections.

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 mentioned that Ms. Cantrell is filling the position vacated by Ms. Raynor, as the Town of Smyrna’s representative. Mr. Flowers, a County representative, resigned in September; his position has not yet been filled by the County Commission.

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.

REPORTS FROM LIBRARIES & SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS:

Linebaugh Library: Ms. Barrett was absent. Reports were submitted in the packet. Ms. Shacklett added in the report that Linebaugh’s HVAC regulator failed and the entire VFD (variable frequency drive) unit needed to be replaced. Cost is \$9,210.00 from Lee Company. Mr. Holden made a motion to approve taking the \$9,210.00 from the Linebaugh Maintenance Reserve Account at the end of fiscal year, if necessary. Mr. York seconded. Those who were present voted “aye.” Motion carried.

The Linebaugh Public Library will be closed on October 19-20 for a compressor installation. The closures were approved by the Board at the April 17, 2023 meeting.

MGL Library: Ms. Birckholtz had nothing to add to her reports.

Technology Engagement Center (TEC): Ms. Tyree was absent. Reports were submitted in the packet.

Bookmobile (BKM): Reports were submitted in the packet. The bookmobile vehicle should be here by the end of the month!

Historical Research Center (HRC): Reports were submitted in the packet. Ms. Shacklett highlighted the “First Families of Rutherford County” program in the report.

Friends of Linebaugh Library (FOLL): Mr. Beasley was absent. Ms. Shacklett delivered FOLL's reports:

- Gave away 18 boxes of books at the Farmers' Market on October 7th.
- Hosted the Pen Pal program with guest author, Sharon Cameron; it was a huge success. This was the first time the program was offered to high school students. Six (6) high schools participated. Ms. Cameron also presented a program at Linebaugh.
- Will participate at Harvest Days at Cannonsburgh on October 28, 2023.
- Distributed chocolates and "thank you" cards to admin, Linebaugh, MGL, and TEC staff.

Smyrna Public Library (SPL): Ms. Graves added the following to her written reports:

- Cracked window was replaced on October 1st.
- Replacement of pendant light is scheduled to begin on October 22nd.
- The Staff Development Day (SDD) on October 9th was held at the SPL for the first part of the day.
- The SPL administers proctor testing (by appointment only/2 weeks in advance).

Friends of Smyrna Library (FOSL): Ms. Pickett was absent. Ms. Graves delivered FOSL's report:

- Provided food and gifts to staff during "We Gotcha Back" week.
- Approved paying conference fees and travel expenses for the Youth Services Coordinator to attend the annual conference of the National Association of Educators for Young Children to be held on November 15-18, 2023, in Nashville.
- Paid lunch for SPL staff during the SDD.
- Will sponsor a Local Author Fair on Saturday, October 28, 2023 at the SPL.
- The FOSL's Annual General Meeting is on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 6 pm at the SPL.

Eagleville Library: Reports were submitted in the packet. Ms. Jordon highlighted the following:

- For the third month in a row, circulation count was over 3,000 checkouts.
- The Eagleville Fall Festival took place on September 23rd with 125 vendors and an estimated 5,000 people came to the event.

Friends of Eagleville Library (FOEL): Ms. Jordon reported that FOEL participated at the Eagleville Fall Festival by having a book sale; they made over \$400.00. They're getting ready for the "Trick-or-Treat in the Street" event in downtown Eagleville.

Rutherford County Library System (RCLS): Reports were submitted in the packet. Ms. Shacklett asked the Board if it is possible to modify the Board's decision concerning the new juvenile and young adult profiles.

In August 28, 2023, the Board approved the creation of profiles for juvenile and young adult cards. By default, such cards would be restricted from checking out materials classified in the next higher levels (young adult and/or adult). However, parents/legal guardians would be able to opt out of these restrictions, giving their children permission to check out other materials if they choose. Currently, there are 14,000 juvenile cards that will be affected.

Ms. Shacklett asked the board to consider a change to this plan, stating that there would be less impact on these card holders if parents/legal guardians had to "opt in" for restrictions on YA cards. After discussion and several board members expressing concern over liability related to new laws, the Board decided to leave the decision as adopted previously.

A concerted messaging effort, which will include the funding bodies, will be sent out before the juvenile and young adult cards will take effect on January 1, 2024.

The State of Tennessee and Regional Library Service Agreement will also take effect on January 1, 2024. Mr. York questioned a particular point of guidance regarding “obscene” materials sent by the Secretary of State’s office with the annual service agreement this year. After considerable discussion, Mr. Sullivan requested Ms. Huddleston to seek clarification on whether “obscene” is intended to include adult materials, or only those materials intended for minors. The board was in agreement that RCLS is endeavoring to understand and comply with all guidance and code, including the rules in the City of Murfreesboro ordinance and the Tennessee law 39-17-911 in relation to “obscene” materials.

- Note:
1. The Chair reminded those present that “obscene” is defined as the prevailing morality standard of the community and the social politics of the area.
 2. Tennessee Public Library Service Agreement is an annual document signed by the public library Board of Trustees in order to participate in the Tennessee Regional Library System through the Tennessee State Library and Archives, Tennessee Department of State. This agreement outlines responsibilities of the library as well as responsibilities of the State Library and its Regional Library.

Foundation: The Foundation Board will meet on Wednesday, October 18, 2023.

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

- Succession Planning Guide. A guide for board members or incoming directors in unexpected scenarios/situations is available.
- R.E.A.D.S (Regional E-book and Audiobook Download System) update:
 - * This system now has its own collection development policy and will soon have a Reconsideration Form available online. Anyone who has an objection to a R.E.A.D.S title should please let SRRL know.
 - * Libby /Overdrive. Presently, titles from all other libraries in the state are visible in Libby. However, because most of the objections to titles received by TN State Library and Archives are not purchased by the State, SRRL is going to stop sharing all titles from other libraries. Materials purchased by the State and by RCLS will still be available in these platforms.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (non-agenda items):

1. Oceana Glantz, a Murfreesboro resident and library card holder, expressed her concern on recent banning, and the impact of withholding informational resources on comprehensive sex education and healthy relationships.
2. Tiffany Fee, a Christiana resident and library card holder, and founder of the Rutherford County Library Alliance, spoke about issues that diminish the public trust in the Board and the intimidation tactic shown to staff during the August 28, 2023 meeting.
3. Kathy Boudreau, a Murfreesboro resident and library card holder, expressed her displeasure with the Board for not understanding Collection Development and how recent decisions relate to LGBTQ issues.
4. Jason Vance, a Murfreesboro resident, library card holder, and frequent library user, gave his suggestions to the Board to “tread softly” on issues it is facing by:
 - trusting librarians to do their jobs,
 - affirming that sex education books for children and young adults are not child pornography, and
 - recognizing many recent book challenges for what they are: anti-LGBTQ.

Response to Public Comments:

Lauren Brandon and other board members offered a response to some of the public comments. Points included:

- Despite their personal beliefs, most Board members are working toward the middle ground on current issues. Despite their conscientious efforts, some board members have received threats from people on both sides of the argument.
- The Board has to comply with local, state, and federal laws set forth to protect staff from liability, and to prevent funding from being pulled. Funding for the RCLS is being provided on a year-to-year basis, as has been the norm. Now, there is a threat on the horizon that funding could be pulled by at least some of the funding entities.
- The Board does not target any groups or identities in the community by withdrawing materials or content about such groups. Requests for reconsideration of materials are submitted by people from the community and the Board considers these requests under the lens of the laws.
- The RCLS Board is a volunteer position with members appointed by the funding bodies:
 - Rutherford County – 4 representatives
 - City of Murfreesboro – 4 representatives
 - Town of Smyrna – 2 representatives
 - City of Eagleville – 1 representative

OTHER BUSINESS

- Meeting schedule 2024: Mr. Wright made a motion to approve the RCLS Board meeting schedule for 2024 as presented. Mr. King seconded. Those who were present voted “aye.” Motion carried.

Mr. York will reserve the County Courthouse for next year’s meetings with the understanding that month-to-month the reservation may be cancelled with 2 weeks’ notice, depending anticipated need for public seating that the Courthouse provides.

- There will be no Board meeting in November. The next meeting will be on December 4, 2023, at the Murfreesboro City Council Chambers.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.