

The Worcester County Library Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at the Ocean City Library. Members present were Leslie Mulligan, Vicki O'Mara, Patricia Tomasovic, and Holly Anderson. Ron Cascio, Nancy Howard, and Jaime Bailey were absent.

Also present were Jennifer Ranck, Director; Rachael Stein, Assistant Director; Amy Parker, Business Manager; Tyvonnia Braxton, Ocean City Branch Manager; and Bethany Hooper from *The Coastal Dispatch*.

Regular meeting was called to order by Ms. Mulligan at 9:31 a.m. Recording device was acknowledged.

A motion to accept Minutes from the October 8, 2019 meeting was made by Ms. Tomasovic and seconded by Ms. Anderson. All present were in favor.

Correspondence – *The Coastal Dispatch* featured a photo of the Republican Women of Worcester County presenting a donation check to the Pocomoke Branch Library; an article about Worcester Library participating in the annual Stem Festival; and an article about the library's decision to remove overdue fines.

Financial Report – Ms. Ranck reviewed branch expenses for September 2019. Ms. Ranck said that there was an unexpected yearly equipment maintenance software agreement charge for the phone system; this will be corrected in next year's budget. We separated the fines and fees columns to the monies to the County Commissioners spreadsheet. Ms. Ranck said the statistics are steady.

Administrative Report – A copy of the report was sent in each board member's packet to review before the meeting. Ms. Ranck reported that Berlin's Haunted Libratory drew in just under 600 people. We hope the event attracted people who do not normally use the library. Pip the Beach Cat will be visiting the Snow Hill branch November 14, 2019. In October with a Cardboard Challenge Saturday program in Snow Hill, participants assembled miniature foosball tables out of shoeboxes and contributed to a cardboard roadway. In Ocean Pines, they had a Cardboard Challenge, and a Lego/Duplo event and children helped to build a giant igloo made out of milk jugs. This year's One Maryland One Book (OMOB) selection was about the Flint Water Crisis. The Town of Berlin Waste Water Management department delivered a program touching on the importance of clean water, where Berlin's water comes from, how it is tested, and how to read a water bill with water testing results. A home school family also attended this program. Another OMOB program, a PBS NOVA documentary, ended with a lively discussion about the right to clean water. Ms. Ranck thanked Elena Coelho for planning these great programs. The Worcester County Library Foundation is joining other nonprofits in Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset on December 3 for "Giving Tuesday" to raise funds for our Summer Reading program (<https://www.shoregivesmore.org/WCLF>). The Foundation is also hosting a fundraiser: "Raise a Glass" to Repeal Day and the end of Prohibition on Friday, December 6. The event will be held at Sisters (113 N. Main Street, Berlin) from 5 – 9 pm and will include live music, snacks, table trivia, and a 50/50 raffle. The next Foundation meeting has been changed from December 17 to December 9 at 2pm in Snow Hill.

Staff Development Report - A copy of the Staff Development report was sent in each board member's packet to review before the meeting. Ms. Stein thanked Ms. Parker for handling the staff development training log since Ms. Neville's retirement. Almost of all of our staff has taken the Active Shooter training. Ms. Stein reported that employees are viewing high quality webinars produced by

the State Library Resource Center. Alicia Blake attended the Statewide Circulation Conference. Lisa Voss attended the YALSA Young Adult Services Symposium in Memphis, TN, from November 1- 3.

Old Business – A copy was sent in each board member’s pack to review before the meeting.

Pocomoke Library Design Grant The City of Pocomoke sent a letter to County Administration with a proposal for a new library site.

Petition Policy After discussing a draft policy, Ms. Ranck said she will contact the library’s attorney for advice.

Fine Free Response about the library’s fine free policy has been positive.

Finance Department will be moving their Isle of Wight office into the Ocean Pines library as early as December. Ocean Pines will lose one of their computer rooms. The upcoming carpet replacement may impact the schedule. The carpet bid closes today at 1pm.

New Business –

eBooksforAll Beginning November 1, 2019, Macmillan Publishers allows libraries (no matter the size of their city or town) to purchase **only one copy** of each new eBook title for the first eight weeks after a book’s release. Different library consortiums and advocacy groups are working to explain the important role libraries play in the overall book industry.

Job Center The Lower Shore Workforce Alliance is offering a grant so that the library can set up job assistance in Worcester County. Ms. Ranck thinks maybe a job center can be set up in the Ocean City and Pocomoke branches. Ms. Ranck said the job center is successful at the Wicomico library. A huge job board is readily accessible for people to view.

Board Vacancy Mr. Cascio’s term ends in December. The Board will need to find a new Berlin area representative and select a President.

2020 Library Closing and Board Meeting Dates Included in the board packet is the proposed list of holiday closings and board meeting dates for 2020. A motion to approve the 2020 holiday closings and board meeting dates was made by Ms. O’Mara and seconded by Ms. Anderson.

Creativebug The library purchased a new online learning platform, Creativebug. It offers over 1,000 art and craft video classes taught by designers and experts and includes downloadable patterns, templates, and recipes. The videos have public performance rights and library staff is able to incorporate them during library programs.

PLA Conference The Public Library Association Conference will be held in last weekend in February 2020. The library hopes to send four, and possibly five, staff members thanks to grant funding from the Maryland State Library and the Eastern Shore Regional Library.

Ms. Tyvonnia Braxton, Ocean City Branch Manager, said Ocean City is doing well now since they are fully staffed. Seth, our movie guy, will be showing 3D movies now. We can accommodate 25 people since the Friends group has bought us 3D glasses. The train display will be coming back again this year. If you haven't seen it please come by to check it out. It will be up the week before Thanksgiving. Ms. Ranck mentioned the WWIIunes will be coming for a holiday music program as well.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, December 10 at the Ocean Pines Library meeting room at 9:30 a.m.

Ms. Mulligan asked if those present had further comments or questions. Ms. Anderson motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Tomasovic seconded. All present in favor. The meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

Amy Parker