

The Worcester County Library Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at the Ocean Pines branch. Members present were Vicki O'Mara, Patricia Tomasovic, Sandra Buchanan, Kathryn Culbertson, Jocelyn Briddell, and Jeff Smith (via Zoom Conference). Nancy Howard was absent.

Also present were Jennifer Ranck, Director; Betsy Gravenor-Stacey, Assistant Director; Amy Parker, Business Manager; Harry Burkett, Ocean Pines Branch Manager; Cathy Moore, Library Services Assistant, Ocean City Branch; Savannah Varner, Youth Services Specialist, Ocean City Branch; and Bethany Hooper, *Coastal Dispatch*, via Zoom Conference.

Ms. O'Mara welcomed Cathy Moore and Savannah Varner from the Ocean City branch.

Regular meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Ms. O'Mara. Recording device was acknowledged.

Mr. Burkett reported the Friends of the Ocean Pines Library recognized Kay and Lanny Hickman as the branch's 2022 Volunteers of the Year, marking the only time the award had been presented to two honorees, at the first volunteer reception held here since 2019. The branch is back to being a community hub. Our programs are doing well, bringing in 35-40 children & parents. The movie we showed last night brought in 8 people. The sports complex meeting was also held last night.

A motion to accept Minutes from the April 12, 2022 meeting was made by Ms. Tomasovic; seconded by Ms. Briddell. All present were in favor.

Correspondence – No comments were made. *Bayside Gazette* featured an article on the "Teacher as Student" art exhibit at the Berlin Library.

Financial Report – Ms. Parker reported on the branch expenses for April 2022. Ms. Ranck said the general maintenance is over for the branches, the cost of materials has increased. Ocean Pines is having a sprinkler flush this Sunday, May 15. This will take about 5 hours to complete. The Ocean Pines carpets will be cleaned afterwards in June. All branches are having their carpets cleaned before the summer. We usually do this each year between April & May. Snow Hill branch site expenses show 100%; that is due to the work we had done in the Worcester Room. No comments were made on the statistics.

Administrative Report – Board members received a copy of the Administrative report to review before the meeting. Ms. Ranck said that the Berlin walking trail signs are up. Berlin hosted staff day for us April 29. Ocean City branch is prepping for summer. They continue to promote their foreign language collection and will possibly pull out a few genres of the fiction collection for patrons to find items easier. Pocomoke is having a life size Candy Land program on Friday, May 13; the staff are extremely creative. Pocomoke is needing storage space and will use some space upstairs at the Ocean Pines branch. The commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Pocomoke fire went well; Mr. Godfrey put together an exhibit of archival materials. Part of the exhibit was shown on WBOC's Travels with Charlie segment. The Foundation Paint Night fundraiser is May 19; only 9 spots left.

Assistant Director's Report – A copy of the Staff Development report was sent in each board member's packet to review before the meeting. Ms. Gravenor-Stacey again welcomed Cathy Moore and Savannah Varner to the meeting. They started the Library Associate Training Institute (LATI) Early Start Program, a 12 week self-paced online course that covers some of the fundamentals of librarianship and library organization. The Storywalk® in John Walter Smith Park has been updated with "Bloom Boom!" by April Pulley Sayre. The next story will probably go up before Summer Reading starts. Ms. Gravenor-Stacey has made contact with John Owen, Director of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, for information about creating a Braille-enhanced Storywalk® in another location in Worcester County. The Staff Day on April 29 was attended by 41 staff members, who participated in an activity by the EDI Committee to demonstrate equity and a discussion on best practices for conducting reference interviews. 12 staff attended the MLA Conference in Cambridge, MD last week, as the Conference returned to an in-person format.

OLD BUSINESS:

FY 23 Budget Ms. Ranck attended the County's FY 23 Budget Presentation for the annual Public Hearing last Tuesday. A link to the budget presentation was sent to the board. The County is having work sessions today and next week. Ms. Parker and Ms. Ranck will be closing out the FY2022 budget soon.

Logo Staff have been providing feedback on the logo refresh. Ms. Ranck shared her screen so the board could see the logos. No decision was made. Ms. Ranck said if anyone has any suggestions to please let her know. Ms. Ranck also said no update on the new vehicle.

Pocomoke Ms. Ranck is working to submit a FY 24 state capital grant for Pocomoke. The grant is due May 27. We hope to pursue a new library building downtown across from the community garden where the Armory is located. Ms. Briddell asked if we are still partnering with the Senior Center. Ms. Ranck said that idea could still be a possibility and can let the County know that the library is still interested in a shared space.

NEW BUSINESS:

MSL Grant Opportunity The Maryland State Library Agency has announced the FY 2023 LSTA competitive grants cycle. Grants are due Friday, May 27. Some ideas we could apply for would be to install another Storywalk®; solar-powered outdoor furniture for Pocomoke; or a small conference room for Snow Hill.

Summer Reading Registration begins June 13. This year's theme is Oceans of Possibilities. Many fun performances and programs are scheduled this summer and each branch will have a special photo booth area for children and families to use for pictures. Children who visit and take a photo at each branch will earn an extra entry into the grand prize raffle. The Summer Reading Program is open to all ages, including adults. The Calendar of Events for June/July/August should be here tomorrow. We are hoping to build on last year's summer reading attendance. Ms. Hooper left the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Facilities Plan Ms. Ranck reviewed the draft Facilities Plan from HBM. The Library's last Facilities Plan was completed in 2013 and the Eastern Shore Regional Library received a grant to help all eight member library systems update their plans. A Facilities plan is required to apply for state capital grant. Library staff have reviewed the document and made some updates. Included in the plan are some circulation and attendance statistics. Unfortunately, FY 20 and 21 statistics are skewed due to Covid, and we hope to update with FY 22 numbers over the summer.

Ms. Culbertson, Ms. Briddell, and Mr. Smith agree with the tone & content in the Request for Reconsideration policy. They just have to tweak it and give to Ms. Ranck so she can draft before the June board meeting. Mr. Smith suggested posting the Request for Reconsideration form separately on the website and not part of the Collection Development policy. Mr. Smith also said it is a good form and the policy is solid. Ms. Culbertson added that American Library Association provides strong resources and support for board members.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, June 14 at the Pocomoke branch with a Zoom option at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Buchanan motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Culbertson seconded. All present were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 10:51 am.

Amy Parker