

Draft Minutes
MOUNTAIN REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Union County Library, Blairsville , Georgia
Wednesday, August 10, 2016, 10:00 AM

I. Call to Order and Welcome - Ron Bolin, Chairman

Ron Bolin, Chairman, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Members present were Ron Bolin, Ernie Seckinger, Joan Crothers, Karan Harper, Paula Whitehead, Peggy Deyton, Peggy Callaway, and Nick Wimberly. Staff present were Vince Stone, Susie Brendle, Dyana Costello-Banks, Debbie Phillips, Peggy Keys Burrell, Lynn Bartlett, Casey Hunley, and Clare Barton.

II. Minutes

The minutes had been sent to the membership by email prior to the meeting. Nick Wimberly moved to suspend the reading to approve the minutes and Peggy Callaway seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

III. 4th Quarter Financial Report - Vince Stone, Director

Copies of the financial report were distributed and discussed by Mr. Stone. Joan Crothers moved to approve the report and Karan Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Stone also distributed and discussed the 4th Quarter Balance Sheet. He was happy to inform the Board that we have not touched our cash reserved so far this year.

Nick Wimberly moved to approve the report and Paula Whitehead second the motion. The motion carried.

IV. Branch Library and Headquarters Reports

A. Towns County Public Library

Debbie Phillips reported their circulation for physical year was 33,632. The total attendance was 36,036 which was up 30%. There were 87 children in the summer reading program with 1570 books read by the children. The debut performance of the MRL Puppet Company was a great success with an attendance of 150. There were several exciting and well attended events each week for the children as well as adults to enjoy. Some of the special guest were Dallas Manus, dirt race car driver, Kathy Church, from Smithgall

Woods State Park, Dr. Clare Worthy and Dr. Kilee Smith, and 4 girls take who take classes with North Georgia Dance Arts. The final party was at the beach park with Hampstead Stage Company performing “Wizard of Oz.” Refreshments were enjoy by all. Awards were give to the children for their reading efforts.

B. Fannin County Library

Clare Barton reported that 300 patrons (195 youths, 105 adults) had signed up for the Summer Program. She and the local trustees worked hard to get the library on the upcoming SPLOST. However, their efforts failed, again. The Commissioners did acknowledge that the library did need to be moved out of the courthouse. They flowed possibilities for funding and location. The local board of trustees voted to ask for an increase in the county budget of \$20,000.00 for staff salaries to meet the state standard of operating hours to 55/week for Branch Libraries. University of North Georgia is planning a “Big Read” for all of its campuses and their communities for Oct. 17. They have invited Fannin Co. Library to be a part of the planning process for all the activities surrounding the “Big Read “ in the community.

C. Union County Library

Susie Brendle reported the total circulation for the 4th Quarter FT16 was 45,240. Total attendance was 4,048. 3996 patrons used Internet computers. 2815 patrons used our wireless access. We issued 187 new cards and added 521 new items

They were open 77 days and closed 1 day for Memorial Day. They currently have \$11,509.44 in our checking account. There were 192 youths sign up for the Summer Reading Program and 15 adults sign up for the Adult Summer Program. School story time starts back August 15th on Mondays, and Lego Club starts on Aug. 31 at 3:45. Third Thursday Threads meets every Third Thursdays at 2:00. Mountain Friends Book Club continues to meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM This month’s book is Susan Meissner’s A Fall of Marigold. Dyana will be giving computer classes in GADD and Computer Basics. Friends of the Union Co. Library will be celebrating 20th anniversary. They will be sponsoring the Mountain Regional Puppet Company again in Dec. for a seasonal/Christmas show in all three countries. FOUCL donated \$1000.00 to the puppet company to help with summer program.

D. Director’s Update and Summary

Mr. Stone reported on the progress of the renovation. Wall framing and

electrical work has been completed. Sheet rock was hung and the new storage building is completed. New window openings have been knocked out and awaiting new frame and windows . EMC will be installing the internal and external security camera system. Another locate company will install audio/visual section of the community room. AV capabilities of the community will include HD movie viewing, surround sound audio, computer presentation capability and document camera projection capability. Cost saving decisions on flooring will help us to afford to install and design a new sign down by the road which was quoted at \$5,400.00. We have quotes from two artist to help with designs for the children's area. One is a local artist, Art Millican, who owns Sleepy Holly located in Young Harris. He is a former Disney artist and still does work for them and Dollywood.

Mountain Regional Puppet Company had performed at all four branches during the summer and drew huge crowds. The Christmas performance has already been funded by Union County Friends of the Library.

The new website has drawn a 26% increase in visitors and regular users. Improvements are continuing on a regular basis.

Mr. Stone is researching the possibility of offering our patrons mobile wifi hot spots for checkout. A patron who checks out a mobile hot spot will be able to take it home and log on to the internet using their own computer, tablet or mobile device. This would be free of charge.

Mr. Stone is also in the research phase to provide Passport facilitation services at the new MLR branch. This would include photos, checking the applications for accuracy and submitting the to the proper authorities. Fees generated from this service could be very lucrative.

Friends of the Library and the MRLS staff are preparing for a "Mega Sale" to take place on the last weekend of August. They will be selling used books, baked goods, and old furnishings, chairs, and desks.

V. Old Business

There was no old business to conduct.

VI. New Business

A. Board Nominations and elections

Peggy Deyton was elected Vice-Chairman
Peggy Callaway was elected secretary

B. Hours at MRL

Mr. Stone asked to table this for the present time.

C. Strategic Plan Committee

Ernie Seckinger will head up a committee to begin and update/revision of the Library's Strategic Plan. It was suggested that a committee be formed that consists of patrons, staff, board members, and community members.

D. Towns Co. Library Board asked the Regional Board to listen to a rebuttal of an evaluation by a staff member. It was decided that this was against the policy in the MRLS Personnel Policy Manual page 41 under section **F-5 Complaint and Problem Resolution Procedure** and page 42 under **F-6 Appeals Procedure**. Therefore, no motions were made to enter executive session to discuss the matter.

Ernie Seckinger suggested that we change one of the policies in the Personnel Policy Manual under **F-5, #2** which only gives an employee 7 days to write a rebuttal of an evaluation to 14 days. Peggy Deyton moved to approve the motion and Paula Whitehead seconded the motion. Motion carried.

VII. Public Comments

None

VII. Adjournment

Vince gave a walk through tour of MRL renovations at noon for anyone interested.

All library meetings are open to the public.