

MOUNTAIN REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Fannin County Commissioner's Board Room, Blue Ridge GA
Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 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: Ron Bolin, Ernie Seckinger, Joan Crothers, Paula Whitehead, Peggy Deyton, Jared Champion, John Turner, Gordon Riddoch, and Nick Wimberly. **Staff present:** Vince Stone, Dyana Costello-Banks, and Clare Barton; on speaker phone: Debbie Phillips, TCPL, and Susie Brendle, UCL. **Guests:** Donna Howell, Historical Society; Doris Tilly, FOL.

II. Minutes

The minutes of 8/10/16 were sent by email. Nick Wimberly moved to suspend the reading and to approve the minutes; motion seconded and passed.

III. Branch Library Reports

1. Towns County Public Library

Debbie Phillips reported by phone that she was home with her two sick children and did not have stat sheet with her. She gave a brief report on upcoming programs for the Towns County Public Library.

2. Fannin County Library

Clare Barton reported funds as of 12/31/16: a balance of \$3,871.07 plus \$2,017 from FOL and State materials grant coming in. Quarterly attendance 10,935; total circulation 14,776; computer & wifi 4,063; children's programs 14; adult programs 9. FC Commissioners approved \$10K increase for staff--\$1/hr. for each employee starting Jan. 1, 2017. Activities: Dr. Seuss' birthday in Feb.; UNG Big Read in Oct.

3. Union County Library

Susie Brendle reported by phone: total circulation at UCPL for the 2nd quarter FY17 was 38,219. Total attendance was 32,081. The library currently has \$12,176.11 in checking account. 2017 SPLOST funding started over on January 1st. We will continue to receive \$16,000 each year for the remainder of this SPLOST in 2021. FOUCL has donated \$1300 since last quarter to use for periodical renewals, books and SRP supplies. Their bake sale on December 20th raised \$700 for the library. They plan to have another one in May. They also have a new president as of January 1st. Debra Davis took over for Sally Woodworth. They are currently working on Summer Reading Program, having many fun events and activities for the children. Lego Club started back on January 25th and will continue through April. The Cat in the Hat will be at our February 27th storytime to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday.

D. Director's Update and Summary

Mr. Stone reported the ribbon cutting on Nov. 5th for the **renovated MRL** was well attended with good radio and newspaper coverage. They were able to move the library from its temporary location and reopen to the public on time and on budget. T.C. Historical Society took 4 truckloads of furniture and some books and other materials. Several items did not make it into the construction budget because funds were too low—electric door openers, a fireplace and paving the parking lot. **Mountain Regional Puppet Company** performed a Christmas show and have been invited to perform at the Storytelling Festival at YHC the first weekend of April. The American Library Assoc. held its Mid-Winter meeting close-by in Atlanta on Jan. 21, so he and the 3 branch managers attended. He would like to someday attend the PLA conference as a comparison. **Staff Day** was on MLK weekend, all branches were closed Friday thru that Monday and there was a day of training and PINES system received an update. **New member**, Dr. Jared

Champion, was appointed by Y.H. Mayor Gibby to the local and regional board of trustees. He is a professor at YHC and will represent the City of Young Harris.

- A. **Financial Statement:** FY2016-17 Statement was discussed and Motion to Accept by Gordon, seconded by Paula and passed.
- B. **Balance Sheet:** FY 17 quarterly Balance Sheet was discussed and Motion to Accept by Nick, seconded by Paula and passed.
- C. **Summary of AUP AUDIT:** Vince reported it was held last Thursday and Friday. Not a full audit, but general overview by a state certified individual. The five-page report showed their findings were good, and were discussed. Business manager Lynn Bartlett was commended.
- D. **Other Reports:** Dyana reported she attended COMO in October and is serving as a committee chairperson for GLA. She also updated the Board that Mountain Regional is still a member of GADD. She taught few classes in the Fall because of the move, snow, and holidays and will start classes in March.

V. Old Business

A. Library Strategic Plan Update/Discussion

Plan is to start in mid-Feb., and look at data in April and May. A special committee needs to be formed to deal with gathering data to support building a new library in Fannin Co.

B. Capital Asset Policy

Motion to approve was made by Ernie, seconded by Nick, discussed and carried.

VI. New Business

A. Motions

A motion was made by Peggy Deyton, seconded by Paula Whitehead to recognize and thank the staff members at MRL for their tremendous job of moving into the renovated library and for going above and beyond normal work efforts to get the job done. Passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ron Bolin to recognize MRLS Director Vince Stone for his outstanding work with the renovation in coming in on time and under budget. Job well done. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

B. New Meeting Room Policy for MRL

Motion was made by Nick to approve with one small change—specify under JANITORIAL DEPOSIT FEE to include (Union and Mountain Regional Library) in place of (Both Libraries). Seconded by Peggy Deyton and carried.

C. Proposal from Towns Co. Historical Society

Donna Howell was present to ask to have their reference room at the Old Rock Jail in Hiawassee designated in PINES as a Book Deposit of MRLS and add a PINES holdings location and their reference computers to GALILEO. Donna will oversee this. Motion was made by Ernie and seconded by Gordon, carried.

D. Board Chair Nominations Committee

Ron Bolin's term is up in June. Vince and Peggy Deyton volunteered to serve on the nomination committee and the missing members today will be asked to serve as the third member. Our Constitutional By-Laws require a committee to nominate board chair candidates.

E. Budget Overview/discussion

Vince said the state budget seems to be in good shape so our libraries should get the same amounts—Est. income \$1,037,512, divided: Salaries & Benefits-82%; Operations-12% and Materials-5%. Budget is sent out in May, voted on in June.

Ernie stated the electric door openers should be the first priority this year and questioned why this was not brought to the attention of the Building Committee. He suggested that the parking lot paving and drainage by the rock wall should also be a future project. It was agreed that a temporary fix could be a doorbell at the front door for anyone in a walker or wheelchair to summon assistance.

VII. Public Comments

Doris Tilly commented that FOL will work on money for door openers and that the Master Gardeners could help with the landscaping.

Dr. Champion said he would contact Amanda Lawrence, former YHC grant writer, regarding potential grant opportunities.

Vince handed out a new Trustee Handbook 2016 to each member present.

VII. Adjournment

11:50 a.m.

Joan Crothers, Secretary Pro Temp