

Allegany County Library Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting

March 8, 2022

4:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Deb Hendrickson, Stephanie Marchbank, Renee Kniseley, Terry Michels, Bill Bingman, Sue Rudd and John Taube.

Library Leadership Team: Lisa McKenney, Andrea Everett, Ashley Swinford

Location: The Board meeting was held at the Westernport Library. (Note: a Zoom link was also provided to the public and staff)

The meeting was called to order by Terry Michels.

A motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on February 8, 2022 was made by Bill Bingman seconded by Renee Kniseley and was approved. (note: Stephanie Marchbank and Sue Rudd were not yet present for this vote)

A motion to accept both the statistical report and the financial reports of February 2022 was made by Deb Hendrickson seconded by Sue Rudd and was accepted.

NEW BUSINESS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ACLS FY2023 Proposed Budget

John reported that the Leadership Team has discussed several options to achieve evening or weekend hours at selected libraries. We have refrained from fully developing additional scenarios, until our funding is announced.

The date and time of our budget presentation to the Commissioners is Thursday April 7, 2022 at 1:15PM in the Commissioner's meeting room. John indicated that we are drafting our presentation to update them on the status of the LaVale renovation and expansion and also to demonstrate the need for fully funding our budget request. We will also share the letters and postcards that we have received in support of our funding request with the commissioners.

Leadership Team Updates

- Executive Director
- Director of Administrative Services

- Director of Human Resources
- Director of Outreach and Marketing
- Coordinator of Events and Programs
- Coordinator of Branch Services

ACLS and COVID 19 (Coronavirus)

John reported that as of March 1, 2022, the Allegany County Libraries have removed our mask requirement and now strongly encourage wearing masks in the library.

LaVale Library - Renovation and Expansion Update

JOhn shared the contractor reports of completion of these items as of 2/28/2022:

Progress items completed thru 2-28 for the Lavale Library

- continue drywall in existing building
- Installed a few window frames and Glass in front addition
- Drop ceiling Grid
- installed some light fixtures
- Storefront in Reading Room
- Rooftop Electric and HVAC
- Ceramic Tile started in Baths
- Continued Installing cabinets and tops
- Installed Interior doors
- Exterior soffit and Siding

Forecast for next 2 weeks

- Continue Drywall
- Painting
- Ceramic tile
- steel doors
- Storefront glass
- Light fixtures
- continue fire suppression
- Metal Roofing

John shared that we have submitted purchase orders for the new shelving and part 1 of the 2 part furniture package. A purchase order for part 2 of the furniture package will be submitted shortly.

Leadership Team members are drafting plans and schedules for moving staff, materials and equipment back into LaVale.

Ashley provided an update on the Grand Re-opening Plans scheduled for a Friday September 23, 2022 at 5PM ribbon cutting and a Saturday September 24, 2022 community celebration.

Update on transferring management of selected Special Account funds from Wells Fargo to MLGIP (Maryland Local Government Investment Pool)

John updated the Board that now that the annual financial audit is completed, we have turned our attention to transferring the funds currently invested with Wells Fargo to the Maryland

Local Government Investment Pool(MLGIP). Because MLGIP cannot accept existing bonds for transfer, Wells Fargo must liquidate the Bonds and then transfer the cash. To ensure that we don't lose value of the bonds in the transaction, we are proceeding carefully. John anticipate the transfer of funds to be complete within a month.

Update on Maryland eBook Law

John updated the Board that on February 16, 2022, the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland granted a preliminary injunction of Maryland's library digital book law in the case of AAP v. Brian Frosh. The publishers will most likely seek a permanent injunction and will likely prevail. The Court ruling states that the Maryland law is preempted by federal copyright law. The decision, moving forward, is to work with information we've learned from this ruling and, working with other states, pursue this issue by revising the current legislation or introducing new legislation using a different focus to achieve our goal. Some other states (Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Illinois, Tennessee, and Missouri all have legislation in place, with several other states planning for the upcoming legislative year) already have some revised language in place in their bills, learning from this experience.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Three members of the public signed up to speak and lend their support for full funding of the library's FY2023 budget request from the County Commissioners so that the Westernport Library could remain open four (4) days per week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES

Branch Monthly Reports for February 2022 were emailed earlier.

Unfortunately, grant funding for the WiFi Hotspots at the Washington Street, Frostburg, George's Creek and Westernport Libraries has expired and they will not be available for loan after 3/15/2022.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 4PM at the South Cumberland Library.