

## **Allegany County Library Board of Trustees**

Regular Meeting

May 8, 2022

4:00 p.m.

George's Creek Regional Library

### **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, Ali Cline, Laura Deneen

The meeting was called to order by Terry Michels.

**Presentation:** Ali Cline provided an overview of the Summer Reading events, activities, and incentives planned for this summer. The official kick-off is on June 15, 2022 at 5PM in Hoffman Park in Frostburg.

A motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on March 8, 2022 was made by Bill Bingman seconded by Renee Kniseley and was approved.

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

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Discussion of Sue Rudd's Fundraising Proposal**

John suggested that Sue's proposal has several good ideas, but suggested we delay implementing the ideas until after we move in and reopen the LaVale library as staff will be very busy during this period.. He also mentioned the timing might be better later so as to not aggravate the Lonaconing and Westernport communities by giving the impression that we are funding raising for LaVale only. The Board agreed to table the discussion until the fall.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **ACLS FY2023 Proposed Budget**

John stated that we are cautiously optimistic that the county will be able to grant our request for funding. A big thank you goes out to all who filled out a postcard and contacted their elected officials.

We will be finalizing the schedule and adjusting the budget accordingly for approval at the June meeting. To respond to the community's requests we will be incorporating at least one (1) day per week where the libraries will be open until 8PM.

In the Governor's fourth supplemental budget during the session, Governor Hogan provided funding for the 8 public library systems who had lost funding in the original budget. For us, that meant a \$1800 increase over the current state appropriation.

We are looking to use the funds to restore the 8% increment between wage grades for library staff. This will increase the pay for most current staff as well as make our wages more competitive for future vacancies.

John also mentioned that our health insurance rates have not been set yet, but are expected to increase.

### **Leadership Team Updates**

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

### **LaVale Library - Renovation and Expansion Update**

The contractor reports completion of these items as of 5/3/2022:

- Installation of the folding partition wall
- Sidewalks are completed
- Flooring is being installed.
- Final paving set to begin in late May
- Most lighting is installed
- 80% of ceiling tile is installed

John stated that the building will likely be handed back to the library in early July and shelving and furniture installation will begin as soon as possible. Staff will return full time to the location around August 1, 2022.

### **LaVale Staffing update**

In preparation for reopening the library, Andrea has assembled a search committee composed of the Service Leader for the branch and several department heads for the vacancies and will soon be interviewing candidates.

### **Status update on the new Events and Outreach Van**

Ashley reported that the van is scheduled to be delivered in mid-July 2022. Staff are working with a graphic designer for the wrap.

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

John reported that the Bonds have been sold and the funds have been sent to their respective accounts with Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP).

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Nicole Halmos, representing the Friends of the Washington Street Library, spoke to the Friends concerns about the proposed schedule for the library continuing to be open four (4) days per week in the new fiscal year. She stated that the library would be more successful if it offered evening and Saturday hours. She also noted that parking in that area is also easier during those times. Nicole also distributed letters to each Board member stating their request and rationale.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES**

Branch Monthly Reports for March and April 2022 are attached.

WiFi hotspot loaning has resumed from the South Cumberland Library.

Due to the recent surge in challenges to library materials across the country, we created a *Staff FAQ- Responding to Materials Challenges* to assist and prepare front line staff if they are approached by patrons. Thanks to the Leadership Team and Public Library Association Conference attendees for their helpful comments.

Lonaconing and Potomac Edison are interested in installing Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at the GCRL Parking lot.

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 4PM at the South Cumberland Library.