

Allegany County Library Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting

October 8, 2024

4:00 p.m.

Frostburg Library

PRESENT:

Deb Hendrickson, Renee Kniseley (via Zoom), Bill Bingman, Sue Rudd, Artie Lee Travis and John Taube.

Library Leadership Team: Andrea Everett, Ashley Swinford, Kate Metzger

The meeting was called to order by Deb Hendrickson.

A motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on September 10, 2024 was made by Bill Bingman seconded by Sue Rudd and was approved. (Note: Artie was not yet present for this vote.)

A motion to accept both the statistical report and the financial reports of September 2024 was made by Artie Lee Travis seconded by Bill Bingman and was accepted.

PRESENTATION: Kate Metzger- Summer Reading Wrapup

Kate shared that this year's summer reading events and programs were very popular and set a new attendance record for storytime in the parks. The partnerships have grown stronger and more groups wish to participate in our outreach events. Kate also said that the summer reading activities held in the branches were very popular and she thanked everyone who made the summer a success.

NEW BUSINESS

ACLS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement

John reported that numerous library staff had noticed that ACLS did not have a diversity, equity, and inclusion statement as most of the other public libraries in Maryland do. The staff formed a committee and drafted a DEI statement for us. The purpose of the DEI statement was to show that the library system was in step with the many communities we serve and our purpose is to improve the lives of everyone we serve.

John presented the following draft for board approval.

“Allegany County Library System Statement on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Allegany County Library System is dedicated to fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment where all patrons feel they belong and can be active members of our community. We are committed to promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion in all aspects of our services and programs, ensuring equal access to information, resources, and opportunities for everyone.”

The statement would be posted on our “About Us” page on our website as well as one of our policies. It will also be included in the staff handbooks.

Artie Lee Travis moved to approve the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statement. The motion was seconded by Sue Rudd and passed unanimously.

LaVale Library Patio Public Art Project

John reminded the Board that we are hosting the dedication of the Public Art project at the LaVale library on October 23, 2024 at 6 PM in partnership with the Allegany Arts Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update on FY26 Advisory Committee

The FY26 Advisory Committee met on 8/8/2024 to review library usage and on September 5, 2024 to review the financial aspects of the library system. On Thursday October, 3, 2024, the committee met to begin brainstorming ideas. John and Renee shared the ideas that were generated and reminded that board that these are the ideas as presented and have not been evaluated or analyzed for feasibility. Committee members are to critically evaluate the ideas for the November 7 meeting so that the ideas can begin to be prioritized.

The committee is made up of community members, representatives of branch Friends groups, Board members, library staff and the Leadership Team.

Leadership Team Updates

- Director of Administrative Services
- Director of Human Resources
- Director of Outreach and Marketing
- Coordinator of Public Services

PUBLIC COMMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES

Tom Finan Plaque Dedication

The dedication went well and the plaque is now installed in the Avirett Maryland Room of the Washington Street Library.

George's Creek Regional Library Friends Update

The community is forming an independent Friends group and applying for their own 501(c)3 status.

MD State Library Agency (MSLA) Grant

At the end of each grant cycle MSLA usually has some remaining grant funds. Having heard of our budget cut, MSLA has offered us a grant of \$43,000 for collection development to assist us in FY25.

Pet Food for Fines

We will be holding a Pet Food for Fines program this year to benefit the Allegany County Animal Shelter in October. It will be a little different than in the past years, as we will be asking patrons to take their donations directly to the shelter. Since we are asking them to take their donations there, we will provide the shelter staff/volunteers with vouchers to verify the donation amount, then the patrons return the voucher to the library on their next visit to redeem their waived fines.

Shea and Ashley set up a partnership with Martin's grocers to visit our libraries and offer vaccines for flu, covid, and other boosters this fall.

On Sunday 9/29/2024 a fire erupted under Charles street in Baltimore. The fire damaged the internet connections of Sailor, the Maryland statewide library network. ACLS staff were able to switch to an alternate service provider on Monday to continue checking out and checkin in materials. Checking out materials from Libby and Hoopla were disrupted. Our staff did a great job handling the disruption. Regular service was restored by Wednesday afternoon and Libby and Hoopla services were restored Thursday morning. A Big thanks to the Sailor staff as well as ours.

Star Cards- Lisa was able to successfully load the students into our database so that this year's STAR cards are active. We also provide a library card account to each school so that teachers may use our resources in the classroom.

GCRL and Ashley are working on a partnership to bring job coaches from the Western Maryland Consortium to the library on a regular basis.

I spoke at The Allegany County Retired Educators luncheon and bragged about all the great stuff we are doing.

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 4PM at the LaVale Library.