

May 2022 Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Doran Stegura
Carol Turrentine
Betsy Curry
Alex Davis
Dr. Jennifer Brown, Director
Debbie Sweeney, Assistant Director

ABSENT: Melody Puffenbarger
James Stewart
Steve Morelli, Board of Supervisors
K. Wayne Glass, Foundation Liaison

VIRGINIA: At a Regular Meeting of the Augusta County Library Board held at the Augusta County Library Fishersville, Virginia on May 26, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. and in the 245th year of the Commonwealth. . . .

Call to Order

The board meeting was held in person and via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm by chair, Doran Stegura.

Minutes

The minutes from the January 27, 2022 and March 25, 2022 meetings were approved as submitted.

Friends of the Library

The Friends held their membership drive in April during National Library Week. They currently have a few people interested in joining the Friends' board. The joint Friends/Foundation meeting was held but lacking a quorum any actions were postponed until the rescheduled meeting to be held at the end of June. Wayne Glass is wanting to reduce his participation and supports combining the Friends and Foundation into one organization. Where other libraries have combined the two organizations one group simply absorbs the other under one 501c3 status and use focus groups to handle

specific components. Typically the Friends absorb the Foundation which necessitates an adjustment of the organization's bylaws.

Director's Report

Overall the libraries are doing very well with usage increasing. With the meeting rooms once again open for use several of the long-standing groups, such as AA and a woodwinds group, are back and meeting room use is rising. With schools now out foot traffic is also increasing and is expected to significantly rise with the advent of the Summer Reading Program on June 1. Book-a-librarian scheduling will also resume June 1.

There are currently three fulltime and one part time positions open. Coupled with four staff being out due to Covid over the past several weeks the resulting staff shortage has created scheduling challenges and staff burnout. Part time staff were offered more hours temporarily to help. Two of the full time positions have been filled and the new staff will start on June 16. The part time position closes on May 31st and the Librarian I/ Adult services position the following week. The Weyers Cave station manager needed to go part time so the Stuarts Draft and Weyers Cave positions were swapped. The Weyers Cave position is now part time and the Stuarts Draft position is now full time. Hours have been slightly reduced at Weyers Cave to accommodate the reduced staff hours. The Stuarts Draft manager is surveying the community to see where to expand hours there.

Capital funds were used to replace computers and monitors at Churchville and Craigsville. Almost all of the \$25,000 in ARPA funds have been spent. The remaining funds are reserved for the pending self-check machine for Stuarts Draft.

Efforts are underway to strengthen our relationship with the Valley Program for Aging Services (VPAS). They currently hand out our information to 60 to 80 folks per month and are anxious to make use of the Stuarts Draft library's meeting room. Meals on Wheels also hands out library information. There has been an effort to include library materials delivery along with the meal delivery but difficulty returning the materials has presented a roadblock for now.

Old Business

None



New Business

The library's current Strategic Plan goes through fiscal year 2023 so planning for the 2024 - 2029 Strategic Plan is in the beginning stages. Dr. Jennifer Brown wishes to do the plan internally as she welcomes the opportunity to learn more about the community through the process.

The joint Augusta County – Staunton – Waynesboro library trustees meeting may return next year. There is hope that staffing and pandemic situations will stabilize by then.

A community resources database is being created to help refer patrons to needed resources. Betsy Curry recommends adding the Adult Learning Center to the list.

Adjournment

With thanks expressed to Dr. Brown and there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm. The next regular meeting will be held on July 28, 2022, at the Churchville Branch Library at 4:00 p.m.

Secretary