

Pulaski County Library system
Board of Trustees Meeting
January 25, 2022

Charles and Ona B. Free Memorial Library

Trustees Present: Meagan Pratt, Chair; Jan Booker; Kathy Weddle; Lynne Clark; Margaret Brewster; Jennifer McCarthy; Margaret Spradlin; Laura Walters

Trustees Absent: Kevin Siers

Staff Present: Sheena Johnson; Jena Coalson; Sally Warburton

- I. Call to Order and Welcome: Meagan called the meeting to order at 4:30pm and welcomed new Trustee Laura Walters.
- II. Approval of Minutes: Jan made a motion to approve the minutes of November 30, 2021. Lynne seconded the motion. Passed by those present.
- III. Library Reports: Trustees reviewed the staff reports, budget, and statistics. Jena commented that Youth Services staff is visiting PCHS and Dublin Elementary Schools for story time events. The other schools are not welcoming visitors at this time. The federal grant program RIF is also available again and Jena has begun the application process to bring free books to the elementary school students.
- IV. Follow-up to previous meetings and other reports:
 - A. Introduction of Sheena Johnson, Public Services Coordinator.
 - B. COVID Update: the COVID-19 positivity rate and 7-day average new cases at the state level is beginning to decrease slightly. The NRV statistics are still rising. The level of community transmission continues in the “high” range for the entire Commonwealth.
 - C. COVID Test Kits Distribution: The library system has distributed almost 400 test kits. 174 were distributed in mid-December and an additional 216 kits were distributed January 10 – 12. There is a supply issue at this time, but the State Health Department hopes to resume this program when tests are available.
 - D. Revision of By-Laws: After a discussion, the Trustees present suggested changing Section 3 of Article IV of the By-Laws to: “If a Board Member fails to attend 4 regularly scheduled meetings in a single fiscal year, without notification, the Board Recorder will notify the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors will then make the determination whether the Board member is capable of discharging the duties of a Board member or whether the term should be ended and a new member appointed.” This revision will be voted upon at the March meeting of the Board.
 - E. Election of Board Officers: Lynne moved that Meagan Pratt remain Board Chair and Jennifer McCarthy remain as Vice-Chair for an additional year. Jan seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.
- V. New Business:
 - A. Children checking out DVDs: At this time Juvenile Library card holders can not check out DVDs in the libraries’ collection. Jena Coalson, Youth Services

Librarian presented the case that all patrons, including children, should be able to access all items in the collection based on the ALA Library Bill of Rights which states, "A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, **age**, background, or views." After a brief discussion, Trustees present unanimously agreed that the collection should be opened to Juvenile Library Card holders.

- B. Making cards for juvenile patrons fine-free: Jena requested that the Board approve making items checked out on Juvenile cards fine free. On a national scale, in 2019, the American Library Association put out a resolution at their Midwinter meeting citing monetary fines as a form of social inequity. Monetary fines present an economic barrier to access of library materials and services. The resolution urges libraries to "scrutinize their practice of imposing fines on library patrons and actively move towards eliminating them." On the local stage, literacy is challenged and allowing more children to check out and read would help to alleviate this inequity. There followed a brisk discussion of personal stories of overdue library books, ideas and opinions, and questions regarding the monetary income and current procedures. Jennifer made a motion to make the Pulaski Library System fine-free for all library users. Patrons will remain responsible for lost or damaged books. Jan seconded the motion which was passed by all present.
 - C. Reducing the fines on DVDs: became moot.
 - D. Financial disclosure statement: the forms were distributed to Trustees who completed them to return to County Administration.
- VI. Adjournment: There being no further business before the Board, Jan moved and Margaret Spradlin seconded to adjourn. Passed by Trustees.

Respectfully submitted,
Meagan Pratt, Chair
Sally Warburton, Recorder

Approved: March 29, 2022