Minutes
Blue Ridge Regional Library Governing Board
Bassett Branch Library
January 19, 2022

Board members Rebecca Adcock, Margaret Caldwell, Rives Coleman, Betsy Haskins, Lora Mahaffey, Lewis Turner and Cheryl Via attended.

Also attending were Director Rick Ward, Administrative Assistant George Gutshall and Bassett Branch Manager Karen Barley.

Board members Bill Kirby and Sherry Vestal were unable to attend.

Call to Order:

Board Chair Betsy Haskins called the meeting to order at 12:10 and welcomed those in attendance. She introduced our newest board member Cheryl Via representing the Horsepasture District.

Minutes:

The minutes from the December 15th meeting in Collinsville were presented. Lora Mahaffey moved that the minutes be approved, Rives Coleman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a correction to the meeting place.

Financial Report:

George Gutshall reviewed the library's financial report.

He reported that, after adjusting for the funds to cover the Martinsville roof repair and receipt of CARES Act Funds, the revenue is at 49% which is right for the first six months. We did receive a $6,600 deposit late due to the City Treasurer's office being closed unexpectedly due to staffing shortages and will be reported in January's statement.

We had some unexpected expenses due to plumbing and electrical problems plus the staff bonus which caused them to be higher for the month. He noted he is seeing signs of inflation which could raise our costs in the near future.

On a motion by Lewis Turner, seconded by Lora Mahaffey, the board unanimously approved the financial report.

Committee Reports:

Margaret Caldwell, reporting on behalf of the Marketing Committee, said they would be working on developing a public survey to gather needed information for the five-year plan.

Old Business:

Bassett Branch Manager Karen Barley discussed the Bassett Expansion Plan and showed the blueprints of the new additions. A fund-raising committee was formed to guide the effort and is comprised of Betsy Haskins, Lewis Turner, Margaret Caldwell, Rebecca Adcock, and Lora Mahaffey.

New Business:

Board Chair Betsy Haskins announced there will be a joint meeting of the Board of Trustees and the BRRL Foundation Board on January 26th at 5:30 in the Martinsville Library meeting room.

Friends Report:

Lewis Turner reported that the Friends had received an anonymous donation for $10,000. He said they had voted to donate $5,000 for the Summer Reading program again this year and will be giving the Valentine's Gift to staff members as well. Unfortunately, the last sale only brought in $300.

Director's Agenda:

Director Ward referred the board to the printed director's report.

He reported that he and Leandio Gravely will make a presentation on January 26th at 3 p.m. for the Henry County Board of Supervisors and make their presentation for the Martinsville City Council that night a 7 p.m.

Public Comments:

Greg Peitz made a request to the board:

"I have surveyed a number of people in Henry County and Martinsville City about the Director being listed as a BRRL Board Member on the BRRL website. Of those surveyed, only one person had any hesitation to see the Director as a Board Member. All others counted this employee position as a Board Member. The "placeholder" concept for the Director being listed as a Board Member is misleading to those who see the website.

I request that the Director be removed from the listing of Board Members on the BRRL Website and his position be shown with other BRRL Employees, distinct from the Board of Trustees page."

There was no discussion and no action was taken by the board.

Adjournment:

Rives Coleman moved that the meeting be adjourned at 1:11, Rebecca Adcock seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Recorder
Rick Ward

Margaret Caldwell
Secretary