

Minutes
Blue Ridge Regional Library Governing Board
Collinsville Branch Library
April 16, 2026

Board members Rebecca Adcock, Rives Coleman, Twyla Dillard, Christopher Gardner, Charisse Hairson, Monica Hatchett, Hanna Vinova, Donata Worrell, and Lori Hundley attended.

Also attending were Director Melissa Chapman, Administrative Assistant George Gutshall.

Call to Order:

Board Chair Rives Coleman called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm and welcomed those in attendance.

Minutes:

On a motion by Rebecca Adcock, seconded by Donata Worrell, the minutes from the March meeting in Martinsville were approved unanimously with corrections to typos.

Public Comment:

Christopher Gardner recommended that everyone on the board look into Wren Harold's book "Every Picture Tells a Story." Wren Harold is a local author, art teacher, videographer, and photographer. He also suggested the library possibly partnering with him to hold a book discussion.

Christopher Gardner also stated that Chris Lawless, the Collinsville representative on the Henry County Board of Supervisors, is holding a Collinsville Spring Fest on April 25th. He recommended that the Collinsville Library participate. Melissa Chapman said that she would consult with Kim as to whether Collinsville Library could participate as we do not have much preparation time and may not be able to cover scheduling and etc. for the event. She did agree that it would be good for Collinsville to attend and would look into it.

Members of the library board expressed interest in having fliers for the library's upcoming summer reading program distributed at the local schools. Christopher Gardner recommended networking with the school librarians to see if they might distribute summer reading fliers. Melissa Chapman said that she will look into it.

The library board also wanted to thank the branch managers for their extensive branch reports.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report is tabled until next month. Administrative Assistant George Gutshall is locked out of Munis and is unable to generate any reports for the Treasurer's Report.

Committee Reports:

Policy Committee:

Melissa Chapman sent out a new material reconsideration policy and form to the members of the policy committee that morning for them to review. She apologized for the delay, but wanted to make sure that she had input from all of the branches before submitting it to the policy committee.

Building and Grounds Committee:

Martinsville chiller: The air conditioning went out in Martinsville in March so the library had to close early on March 27th due to the high heat in the library. Comfort Systems came and diagnosed a broken fan

motor and managed to get the air conditioning working. Unfortunately, the air went down again at Martinsville and Comfort Systems diagnosed another broken fan motor. They did get the air conditioning running and it is holding. The cost for both fan motors will be approximately \$10,500.

Rives had met with Rob Fincher in March and had a positive meeting. Rives showed Rob the list that George and Melissa had previously compiled detailing the repairs that the library has made to the Martinsville branch over the years. Rob appeared to agree that there are some things that they can do to help us with the chiller. Rives is hopeful that we will be able to work something out with the city regarding the chiller.

Collinsville: The roof leak at Collinsville has been fixed. We will look into renewing the lease in the future.

Bassett: The leak in the foyer of Bassett Library has also be fixed.

General committee information:

A question arose as to whether the committee meeting needed to meet on a scheduled basis. The Policy Committee meets sporadically as policies need to be reviewed and approved and the Finance Committee meets mainly in December and January to finalize the budget for the new fiscal year. It was decided that committees would meet as needed.

Old Business:

Social Media: The Marketing Committee met and is continuing to collaborate with Melissa Chapman to determine the best way to reach the community. It was found that there was a policy in place limiting the library system to one system social media account per platform. They plan to gather more information to determine the most effective way to best engage our communities.

Fundraising for Bassett Expansion project: Melissa Chapman has reached out to various current and previous library directors for advice for the Bassett Expansion campaign. Erica Galloway from Tazewell County has successfully completed 2 phases of a capital campaign and she recommends a phased approach to raising the money. She and other directors also recommend applying for grants as well (some said that hiring a grant writer was one of their best investments).

Melissa Chapman also reached out to Diana Adkins who was a great asset in raising the moneys for the Patrick Bookmobile previously. Based upon her conversation, Melissa Chapman is working to build a donor list for the Expansion project and beyond. With the list, she hopes to reach potential donors to solicit money for the library campaign. The BRRL Foundation web page has been updated with a donation button as well and we plan to update the Bassett Expansion Project Fundraising Facebook page with this information. Melissa Chapman requested that the board share any potential donor contacts that board members may know with her to add to the donor list. Rives Coleman recommended Len Dillon.

Melissa Chapman is also hoping to have an author event similar to that held for the Patrick County Bookmobile (when Martin Clark and Beth Macy had a discussion with Ben Williams moderating). Diana Adkins has contact with Beth Macy so we could see if she would be willing to return. Rives will also reach out to Emily Bessler, an editor for Random House Publishing to see if she might be interested in speaking.

New Business:

Melissa Chapman asked that the library board move to close the library on July 4th. The localities observe July 4th on July 3rd this year as the holiday falls on a Friday. The library follows this schedule as well. Rebecca Adcock moved that all branches close on Saturday July 4th in observance of the holiday with Christopher Gardner seconding. The motion passes unanimously.

Friends Report:

The Friends of the Library will be holding a meeting on Monday, May 11th at 10:30 am in the Friends area at the Martinsville Library. Their next book sale will be on May 29th from 1 pm to 5 pm and May 30th from 9:30 am to 2 pm. The Bingo Fundraiser for the Bassett Expansion will be on April 25th with doors opening at 4 pm and bingo starting at 6 pm.

Lori Hundley followed up on the question about the Friends of the Library support Patrick County Branch. Christopher Gardner replied that he will reach out to Somer to see how the Friends can support the Patrick Branch Library. Lori Hundley suggested that the Friends of the Library rotate their book sales through the branches.

Director's Agenda:

Melissa Chapman referred the board members to the director's report in the board packet. Lori Hundley asked about the Hoopla Consortium mentioned in the report and Melissa Chapman responded that several area libraries are planning to form this consortium to improve access to e-resources through shared resources. Blue Ridge Regional Library will only share content that is owned as one copy one user. Melissa Chapman also discussed the material reconsideration policy and its importance in light of book challenges at other library systems.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Rebecca Adcock, seconded by Lori Hundley, the meeting was adjourned at 4:06.

Recorder
Melissa Chapman

Monica Hatchett
Secretary