

**MAURY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES: MINUTES**

February 22, 2022
Columbia

Present: Joel Friddell, Peggy Richardson, Jan McKeel, Steve Burt, Zelia Dinwiddie, Christa Martin

Absent: Brian McKelvy, Zac Fox

Also present: Marion Bryant BRRL

Call to Order: Chair Peggy Richardson called the meeting to order and delivered the opening thoughts. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Student's Club: Linda Spresser was not present.

Buffalo River Regional Library: Marion Bryant gave the Board an update on upcoming training available such as a new core competency program for library staff. Upon the completion by all staff the library would receive recognition. Jan McKeel asked about potential issues or worries the State Library had regarding recent book banning. Marion said most of these cases are within school systems and were not directed at public libraries. However, the Secretary of State's office is proactively working with legislators, etc. on this issue.

Director's Report: Due to a death in the family Zac Fox was unable to attend. However, he sent his report to the Board prior to the meeting. Peggy asked the members if they had all receive the report and if there were any questions/comments. Peggy took a few minutes to talk about the departure of Caitlin Scroggins and the impact that had on Library staff. She expressed frustration with the communication about the resignation. She shared concerns some staff members had shared with her. She followed up with a meeting with Zac and said Zac was aware and working to address the concerns. Marion counseled that whenever staff brought such concerns to a Board member that the first response should be to have them speak with their supervisor first. Marion said that only if the supervisor was unresponsive after being directly informed should the Board get involved. Christa Martin echoed those guidelines and gave examples from her experience at Columbia State and City of Columbia. Peggy agreed the Director should be the first contact, but she wanted to make the Board aware of the staff concerns. The Board had a short discussion about the issues, ideas and possible solutions. Marion also pointed out that the County has an HR department and that was the proper channel for staff. There was also a discussion about this vacancy in addition to the existing positions open. Peggy thanked Zelia Dinwiddie for her report the Mt. Pleasant branch.

New Business: Peggy reported that the State had approved the 501(c)(3) application for the Library Foundation. She also expressed her disappointment in the lack of attendance for the meet and greet scheduled with the County Commission. Not a single member showed up. There was a short discussion by the Board on the need to develop the relationship between the two bodies especially as it related to communications during the planning for building expansion. Peggy reminded the Board that her term was ending and there was a discussion of potential candidates to serve on the Board as well as the election of officers. A list was compiled with Board members volunteering to speak to individuals about applying for the role. A committee was formed to prepare for officer elections at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes recorded and submitted by MCPL Secretary, Joel Friddell