

**Bristol Public Library**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
April 19, 2012  
701 Goode Street Bristol, VA

Emily O'Quinn, President, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. A quorum was present. Guest and Staff were welcomed.

Trustees present: Beverly Bowers, Gayle Brown, Margaret Feierabend, Ed Harlow, Joyce Kistner, Pete Lauzon, Walter Morton, Emily O'Quinn, Alex Thompson, and Katherine Wilson-Thompson.

Trustees absent: Erin Downs, Megan Hopkins, Beth Muncy.

Library staff present: Jud Barry, Executive Director; Brenda Dunn, Administrative Assistant; Harrison Gilley, Security Supervisor; Susan Wolfe, Avoca Branch Librarian.

Library Foundation staff present: Anita Machado, Executive Director; Sarah Hutchinson, Marketing Director.

Watauga Regional Library staff present: None.

Guests present: Betsy Fortson, Library Patron; Mike Parker, Former Board Member.

**Recognition of Service – Mike Parker:** Emily presented Mike with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service to the Library Board and the book Bode was placed in the Library in his honor. Pictures were taken.

Under new business – Audit was added.

Jud introduced Betsy Fortson. Ms. Fortson spoke to the Board about her concerns regarding loitering in front of the Library. She shared with the Board an incident where she and her grandson were subjected to foul language by a young girl sitting in the plaza as they were coming into the Library. She stated the loitering needs to stop now before it escalates out of control. She would like to see signs saying "No Loitering", the planters fixed in some way to keep people from sitting on them, and for no one to be allowed to congregate in the plaza. She added that Library cards and a valid driver's licenses should be required to come into the building.

Harrison Gilley, Security Supervisor, responded to her complaints stating he believes this was an isolated incident; that they continually patrol the Library premises and do ask people to leave if they are standing around in the plaza. He added policies are posted and are on all the tables downstairs. Most patrons know they cannot stand around, but new people come every day and we do address this problem as it arises. He wanted her to know this is a public place and we can't keep people out if they are behaving. The Library and the security guards do address problems as they arise and hopes it never happens again. Ed added this problem has been around a long time; the cities are aware of this and have been discussing possible solutions.

Emily apologized for the incident and asked this be added to the agenda for next meeting for further discussion. She asked that members think about this and possible solutions to the problem.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for February 16, 2012 were approved as emailed (Ed, Walter).

**Treasurer's Report:** Margaret reported we had received bids for the annual audit. The Finance committee (minutes on file) recommended we accept the bid from Mauldin and Jenkins out of Atlanta. This price is significantly lower than last year's price.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business: Bristol Historical Association Request:** Jud reported that the Bristol Historical Association (BHA) has asked to continue their partnership with the Library for public educational programs in the Kegley meeting room at no charge. After discussion the request was approved to partner with the Bristol Historical Association for educational programming in the Kegley meeting room at no charge, with payment for Tech Services and the Kitchen if needed (Margaret, Joyce).

**Audit:** On a recommendation from the Finance Committee the Board approved the bid from Mauldin and Jenkins to do the Library audit for the next five years.

**Strategic Plan Focus: FY13 Budget:** Jud stated the FY13 Budget (on file) has been submitted to both Cities for \$629,826 each. This includes an increase for utilities, service contracts, facilities maintenance and Children's and Young Adult programming. Avoca's request remains the same, \$185,058. The Literacy Academy requests is the same (\$32,500) using a combination of local funds and Community Development Block grants as determined by the Cities. This request does not reflect any changes in salaries and benefits which are yet to be determined. Jud added we would be looking into bundling of some maintenance items in hope of better pricing. The Board approved the FY13 Budget request (Ed, Katherine).

**Executive Director's Report:** As emailed (on file). He added the Library Foundation Gala and the visit from Adriana Trigiani during National Library Week was a success. Publicity for the event was good and we continue to have great newspaper coverage thanks to our Foundation marketing team.

**WRL Report:** Jud reported Tennessee has been restructuring the Regional Library system and beginning in July Watauga will become the Holston Regional Library. There was some concern we might have to pay for courier service for interlibrary loan when they go statewide, but the State has agreed to continue the service at no charge.

**Other:** Katherine called to the Boards attention that one study room is book through December 28, 2012, which is against Library policy of booking only three days in advance of using the room. Jud will look into this and report back to the board.

**Information: Friends of the Library Report:** Joyce reported that Friends of the Library will meet on Monday to discuss a luncheon for volunteers. Library Board Members also received a bookmark designed by Joyce that the Bristol Historical Association gives out.

Margaret reported there are plans to start a downtown neighborhood watch program which should help with the loitering problem at the Library. Christinia Blevins of Believe in Bristol will keep us informed. Emily asked members to be listening and see what others are saying about the plaza.

Anita reminded everyone about the Mayors awards will be presented at the Paramount on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. with columnist Sharon Randall as speaker and Ms. Randall will also be here at the Library on Monday at 10:30 a.m.

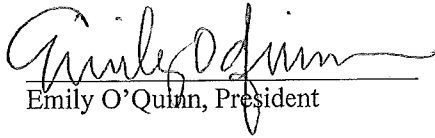
Susan gave an update on the many and varied happenings at the Avoca Branch.

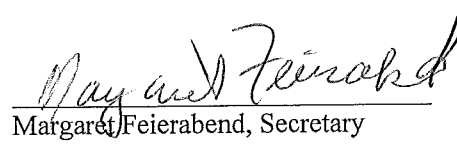
Gayle reminded members the Buechner Institute Series speaker this month is author, Jan Karon, on April 23 at 7:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church.

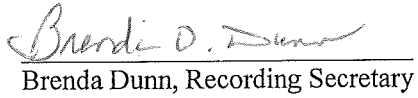
Katherine invited anyone interested to read the Tom Brokaw book with her book club in May and June. They meet on the first Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

The next board meeting will be on May 17, 2012, at 4:30 p.m. at Main.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

  
Emily O'Quinn, President

  
Margaret Feierabend, Secretary

  
Brenda Dunn, Recording Secretary