

Mountain Regional Library System Board of Trustees Meeting
Union County Public Library
October 27, 2021 10:00am

Meeting called to order at 10:05 am.

Present: Board Members – Nick Wimberley (F), Kathy Tickner (F), John Thompson (F), Carol Crawford (F), Trish Allen (U), Shirley Miller (T), Judy Slaton (T); MRLS Staff – Heath Lee, Vicki Adkison, Susie Brendle, Admin. Assistant Susan Shook.

Absent: Kaye McCann (U), Stacy Head (U), Dionne Berrong (T), Holly Tiger (T).

Additions to Agenda. Wimberley asked to add consideration of motion for Fannin County Library Board; it will be discussed in New Business.

Motion to adopt the agenda by Wimberley, seconded by Miller; passed with no objections.

Motion to adopt minutes as is by Thompson, seconded by Tickner; passed with no objections.

No public comments.

Old Business:

Lee stated that the MRL parking lot repave is scheduled for next week, and is expected to be completed in 1 to 2 days.

New Business:

Lee reported that Monica Baron, attorney for MRLS, had closed her office, and that he had reached out to eight other law offices for possible legal assistance. Only two offices had showed interest: Sanders, Ranck & Skilling, P.C. of Toccoa, GA, and Mr. Russell Stookey of Hiawassee, GA. After discussion of respective fees and logistics, Board Members, by show of hands, unanimously agreed to use Sanders, Ranck & Skilling for future legal needs.

Lee reviewed with board members the proposed MRLS Closed Dates for 2022, and asked that the Director be given leeway to close additional days when local events might affect operations at branch libraries. Motion by Wimberley to accept proposed MRLS Closed Dates for 2022, seconded by Crawford; passed with no objections.

Lee presented information on the proposed MRLS HDQ offices redesign. He asked that the Board consider a renovation of the HDQ office area, stating that, due to higher work volume for technical services and other headquarters staff, the area needs to be re-worked to use the space more efficiently, and possibly convert a part of the public area for headquarters use. Discussion ensued. No action was taken.

The application for the administrative area of MRL had been conditionally approved by GPLS for aid from state MRR grant funds.

Lee reviewed the MRLS FY2022 Signatory Authority Approval form, which was completed and is to be submitted to GPLS annually.

The Proposed Policy Revision: Collection Development Policy had been reviewed and discussed by the Board Members, with no changes suggested. Motion to accept by Tickner, seconded by Slaton; passed with no objections.

Wimberley asked the Board to consider having a professional architect make concept drawings of a possible new library for Fannin County, which would be helpful to contractors in the future, and also beneficial in asking for financial assistance from Fannin County. Discussion followed regarding expense of the architect's work. Lee indicated the cost could be as much as \$20,000, and grant funds could be used for this. Motion made by Wimberley that the Board hire an architect to create concept drawings for the Fannin County Library Building Project with expenses not to exceed \$20,000, seconded by Thompson; all in favor.

Chairman's Report: No information to report.

Library Director's Report:

Lee reported that, to upgrade insurance coverages, and add coverages to insulate all parties from sizable risks, MRLS had changed from Utica National Insurance Group, to Cincinnati Insurance Company. Cincinnati Insurance Company provided the best quote regarding pricing and coverages; their quote was accepted.

Lee reminded the Board to fill out and submit the Strategic Plan form, if not already completed and sent in.

Lee has talked with Towns County Board of Education regarding Student Access Cards. All students would have access to all MRLS library materials through their school system's student number. The Board of Ed has not given approval yet.

Finance Report:

Adkison reviewed with Board Members the MRLS FY22 1st Quarter Budget Report. Discussion followed. Adkison stated that she is using the MIP software, and no longer Blackbaud.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am. Motion made by Tickner, seconded by Miller; none opposed.