

Madison County Library
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes (draft)
September 20, 2023

Attending: Charles Carter, Katy Cashman, Sam Cate, Joe Goodall, Diane Heckel, Gary Jones, Ruth Miles, Jill Quinley, Kate Rakowski, Cindy Taylor, and Bonnie Utz

Unable to Attend: Tracy Tanner Bond, Lorie Davis, Jim Jewett, and Bonnie Utz

Opening:

Diane called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

Kate moved for the approval of the minutes of our July 19, 2023 meeting. Ruth seconded and the board approved the minutes as presented.

Library Director's Report

Library Statistics 7/1/23 thru 9/12/23

Circulation totals: **10,892**

Overdrive e-book usage: **1,572** by **162** patrons

Patrons Added: **39** Adult **23** Child

Updated Patrons: **89**

WiFi usage: **2,255** sessions **2,683** hrs

Titles added: **466**

Update

The updates for the current website have been done.

We have purchased for the library a new Auto repair database at a cost of \$1,252. It is to replace the popular old Chilton auto-repair books that are no longer being sold in paper format. Their database is also incredibly expensive. We will try the new database for a year and see if our patrons are using it. We have been offered to have our website totally renovated by the Library of Virginia. I have been in contact with Barry Trott, who heads that division, and we will start on our conversion mid-October. Fran and I will be spending hours both learning to maneuver the system and learning best practices. It is a terrific free opportunity for us.

At the start of October, Gary and I will be working on our annual 700-800 question statistical report to the state. It is usually due before Thanksgiving.

Good news from LVA, we will be receiving \$11,625 more in state aid this year. Bringing our total state aid for fiscal year '23-'24 to **\$71,341**. The governor signed it into law this Thursday. That brings state aid to 87.5% of full funding.

The Budget committee will have to start to work on next year's budget soon. With this bump in state aid, we will have to be aware that it changes the formula that we must work with, to present to the Board of Supervisors.

Activities

In addition to the Medicare program, we will be offering a class on fraud, both mail and phone, as well as identity theft. The Sheriff's office is putting it on for us. We are also having Miss Lillie back again with music and dance for the little ones.

It is a slower time in the library as far as patrons, but this is the time of year when the staff really gets things done. Fran and I are getting both new and backlogged cataloging done. I was very proud of the article that Fran wrote for the Eagle. It was carried by the Google News website under local news.

I wanted to tell you about a lady who came into the library several weeks ago. She had been hiking the White Oak Trail and met a person, who told her about the banning of books, here in Madison. She came to the library upset and wanting to know whether we had been the ones who had banned them. She stood in the library outraged! After I explained that it was the school that had done it, she calmed down on our behalf and was outraged for the students. She wrote me an email afterwards and it well expressed my feelings, I asked her if I could share it with you.

Bonnie,

Please share—and if there is anything I can it help, please don't hesitate to reach out.

As ever,

Kristin

On Thu, Aug 31, 2023 at 3:01 PM Bonnie Utz wrote:

Kristin, what a wonderful letter! You have expressed my feelings about this mess so much better than I could have. May I have your permission to share your words with my Board? They need to know that there are many people who believe the way we do. It's called the "silent" majority for a reason.

Bonnie

From: kseeberger—writer

Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 11:15 AM

To: bonnie@madisoncountyvalibrary.org

Subject: So nice to meet you

Dear Bonnie,

Just a quick note to let you know what a pleasure it was to meet you at your library on Tuesday with my mom. Your work as a librarian in Madison has never been as important as it is now. The more I learn about the book ban, the more I am in disbelief that it is happening in Madison, the place where I discovered literature and took art classes in high school, both of which fundamentally shaped me into the person I am today.

There is so much fear behind this book ban, coupled with a staunch belief that controlling what high schoolers read will make them better people and citizens. It is a type of righteousness that creates this scenario, and it is frightening in its ignorance of its impact.

I believe that banning books creates smaller minds and hearts and creates a divisive and less compassionate community. Books open dialogue and discussion. One can find refuge in a book. You can disagree with what is written, but the freedom of the mind with the pen is a miracle that should never be repressed.

That is my soapbox for today. I'll be back in Madison soon and look forward to seeing you at the library. Again, thank you for all you do for Madison County, its readership, and the writers in the world.

Warmest Regards,

Kristin Seeberger

Be kinder than necessary.

Treasurer's Report: Gary reported the July 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023 account summary. The library received \$52,771.28 in income for the period. Expenses for the period were \$46,193.86. Aid from the Virginia State Library was \$15,198.50 with \$13,527.07 already expended. Friends of the Library's balance is \$1,457.00. Donations total \$1,231.25.

Committee Reports:

Jill reported that **The Friends of the Library** first two weeks of the book sale have been completed. Gary reported the sales earned over \$250. FOL plans to have another book sale in November and they are still accepting books for the sale. They also plan to have a fall yard sale on Saturday October 7, 2023. Jill reported that FOL would like tables on which to display items. Five Board members said they would bring tables. Jill said to bring them to the gazebo with your name on your table any time Friday October 6. Two board members will bring trucks to load at 9:30 AM on Friday and bring them back on Saturday at 6:30 for unloading.

Reporting for the **Grounds and Maintenance Committee** Charles asked Kate to update the board on the new sign. Kate reported that the sign has been installed, but not in the requested location. She has been in communication with Hi-Tech and they hope to move the sign on October 5 if they do not have weather delays. Gary is still holding the final half of their payment awaiting the correct installation.

Charles noted that a volunteer has put up lights in the area in front of the library office window.

Gary said he would ask a man who pruned the shrubs in the past if he would prune library shrubs again this fall.

Cindy and Katy noted that the paint indicating the handicapped spaces in front of the library were faded. Gary reported that the handicapped spaces are on the side of the building where the ramp is located. He said that the symbols in front had been painted over once and needed to be painted over again.

Jill reported that the **Fundraising Committee** has met numerous times to write the annual fundraising appeal letter. She said it is at the printers and will be mailed on October 3 to more than 6,000 households. The letter contains an announcement about the yard sale, and they hope most families will receive it before October 7.

Cindy reported for the **Expansion Committee** that she and Bonnie will meet with David Puckett, of FPW Architects on September 27, 2023. She shared that Mr. Puckett would be doing fieldwork on that day, but wanted to know when he could meet with the Library Board and staff for his first stakeholder meeting in October. She wanted the Board's thoughts on a good time for that meeting. The Board suggested Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 8PM in the basement.

Diane announced that Charles, Gary, and Jill have agreed to serve another 4-year term as board members so the **Nominating Committee** will not need to meet.

Cindy shared an idea about the library partnering with the school system to encourage reading across the county. Waverly Yowell students are reading Wonder and the Middle and High schools each have books large numbers of their students will be reading. She wondered if the library could encourage the wider community to read those titles.

Cindy also Board members to think about ways we could assist the schools with chronic absenteeism.

Finally, she encouraged Board members to attend the "No Books Left Behind" event at Revelation Vineyards from 12-5 PM on October 1. There will be speakers from the Library of Virginia and UVA Law School.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday November 15, 2023 at 7 PM.

Ruth moved, Katy seconded for adjournment and the meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.