

LONESOME PINE REGIONAL LIBRARY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FEBRUARY 2, 2023

PRESENT:	Mr. Lu Ellsworth	ABSENT:	Ms. Martha Jett
	Ms. Jennifer Meade		Ms. Sheila Phipps
	Mrs. Roberta Smallwood		
	Mr. Chris Allgyer		
	Mrs. Ethel Daniels		
	Ms. Earlene Lester		
	Ms. Carolea Newsome		
	Ms. Rebecca Scott		
	Ms. Tammy Scott		

Others Present: Hazel Jessee, Onedah Stanley, and Debbie Yates.

The regular meeting of the Lonesome Pine Regional Library Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, February 2, 2023 in the Harris Art Gallery at the Wise County Public Library.

Chairman Ellsworth welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

I. Chairman Ellsworth noted an addition to the proposed agenda under VIII. New Business as item 3. Tour of the Wise County Historical Society. No other modifications or proposals were requested. Mrs. Daniels made a motion to adopt the agenda as modified. Mr. Allgyer seconded and the modified agenda was adopted.

II. There were no citizens to speak.

Chairman Ellsworth mentioned a desire to resume holding some board meetings at branch libraries throughout the year to be able to interact with our library communities and employees. He noted that for the past few years, Covid-19 and other restrictions made it difficult to gather publicly but now communities are opening up. Further consideration of the subject is on the agenda under VIII. New Business Item 1.

Chairman Ellsworth reported that a contract has been successfully negotiated with Ms. Shannon Steffey, who has accepted the position of Regional Library Director effective July 1, 2023. An announcement was made in January from Chairman Ellsworth via letter to trustees and interoffice memo for all staff. Ms. Jessee will continue in her leadership role as Interim Director and Ms. Julie Short on contractual basis as we transition to the new directorship on July 1.

III. Mr. Allgyer made a motion to approve the December 1, 2022 minutes as distributed. Ms. R. Scott seconded and the motion carried.

IV. 1. Mrs. Smallwood reported that monthly payables had been reviewed. Printouts of monthly payables and financial statements were distributed for trustee information. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Allgyer to accept the financial report as presented. Mrs. Lester seconded and the motion carried.

The following check numbers were reported:

	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Ending</u>
General Fund	42640	42773

2. The proposed budget for FY2023-2024 was distributed for Board review. Ms. Stanley, Business Manager, presented and discussed the proposed budget report. After discussion, Ms. Newsome made a motion to approve the proposed budget for FY2023-2024 as presented. Mrs. Lester seconded and the motion carried.

V. 1. Director's Report

Library Highlights

- Ms. Jessee showcased December, January and winter-themed activities, displays and news throughout the LPRL system by sharing photos from each branch library. All events held during this period were well attended. LPRL libraries participated in community Christmas outreach programs, local parades, and distributed treats; Santa came to visit with the children and lots of photos were taken; children's programming incorporated Christmas and winter-themed crafts and books; and holiday adult crafting classes were popular. Ms. Jessee noted that our "paint and sip" projects are becoming a popular event for adults and for children in the 6-11 year old age group. Scott County library shared a photo of their Little Free Library and expressed appreciation for the board's approval of the project.
- In January, the Library of Virginia provided hearing loops to LPRL libraries. A hearing loop is a special sound system for use with hearing aids to provide better sound at our circulation desks. Our maintenance and technology staff have completed the installations. Funding for the purchase of hearing loops provided by an ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) grant awarded to the Library of Virginia.

Administrative Highlights

- Ms. Jessee was pleased to report monetary donations were received from local community organizations, Friends of the Library groups, Teddie's Treasures and memorial tributes. Donations are used to support the donor's specified library request. Purchases were made to add to book collections and materials to supplement adult and children's programming.
- The E-Rate process is ongoing and bids will end soon.
- The Wise County Historical Society continues to progress toward a spring opening in their new location in the Wise County Library building. The Historical Society has extended an invitation for trustees to tour their new area immediately after the meeting.
- A link for the AmazonSmile charitable donations feature has been added to the LPRL website. The link informs patrons of the opportunity to assist organizations, such as the LPRL Friends of the Library Corporation, when shopping on Amazon. Unfortunately, it was noted that Amazon is discontinuing the program later in the month of February.
- Southwest Virginia Museum partners with LPRL and provides informative, historical displays for the Wise and Big Stone Gap libraries. Ms. Jessee described the featured subjects and invited trustees to view the displays when possible.
- The Wise and Big Stone Gap libraries will be participating in Wise County's 3D mapping project. The technology will provide a digital floor map registered with GIS mapping data to be able to assist in the event of any emergency 911 call within the building.

The following items were distributed in Trustees' folders:

- ❖ Accounts Payable Checks for months of December 2022 and January 2023
- ❖ Financial Statements for October 2022 and November 2022
- ❖ Monthly Stats Reports for November 2022 and December 2022

2. A copy of LPRL's Annual Report FY2021-22 was distributed to trustees. Ms. Jessee welcomed Ms. Julie Short to the meeting, who attended virtually to present the annual report. Ms. Short gave a brief overview of the development of the annual report and proceeded to highlight areas of general interest throughout the report. Discussion ensued. Trustees expressed their satisfaction with the design and composition of the report. Chairman Ellsworth concluded by expressing gratitude to Ms. Short for her leadership in keeping with library goals as outlined in the strategic plan.

VI. On behalf of Friends of LPRL Corporation, Mr. Allgyer announced that Amazon is discontinuing the AmazonSmile program effective February 20, 2023. He expressed his gratitude to everyone who supported the Friends Corporation through the Amazon account. Since enrolling the organization in the program, he reported that funds in the amount of \$120 have been received.

VII. Unfinished Business - None.

VIII. 1. Chairman Ellsworth discussed resumption of board meetings at branch locations. A proposed schedule was recommended as follows:

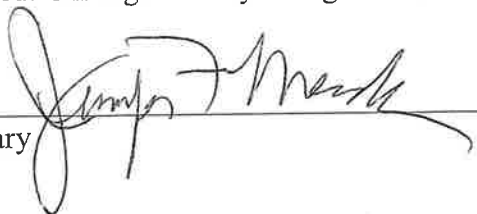
March 2	-	Wise Public Library
April 6	-	Big Stone Gap Library
May 4	-	Lee County Library
June 1	-	Wise Public Library
June 27 or 29 (TBD)	-	Wise Public Library (Budget meeting)
July 13	-	Wise Public Library

After discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Lester to approve the proposed schedule of board meetings as recommended. Mrs. Daniels seconded and the motion passed.

2. A proposal was submitted by Friends of Scott County Public Library requesting permission to sponsor a "Guess the Jellybeans" fundraiser to assist the library's programs and activities. A copy of the proposal letter was distributed in board packs. Mrs. Smallwood made a motion to approve the proposal; seconded by Ms. R. Scott. The motion carried.

3. Chairman Ellsworth invited trustees to tour the Wise County Historical Society's operations office in conjunction with the Mailbox Library on their departure from the meeting. Ms. Jessee announced that members of the Historical Society are present in their office and look forward to meeting trustees.

No further business was discussed. Ms. Meade made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Allgyer seconded. All signified by rising. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.


Secretary


Chairman