

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

PRESENT:	Mr. Lu Ellsworth	ABSENT:	Ms. Martha Jett
	Mrs. Roberta Smallwood		Mrs. Earlene Lester
	Mr. Chris Allgyer		Ms. Jennifer Meade
	Mrs. Ethel Daniels		Ms. Sheila Phipps
	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, March 2, 2023 in the Harris Art Gallery at the Wise County Public Library.

Chairman Ellsworth called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Although five trustees were absent, he announced that a quorum was present for the meeting. He welcomed Shannon Steffey, newly-appointed Library Director, and noted she will attend meetings periodically until her official tenure begins on July 1. Trustee introductions were conducted.

I. The Chairman noted an addition to the proposed agenda under VIII. New Business as item 1. Pennington Gap Womans Club donation to Lee County Library. No other modifications or proposals were requested. Mr. Allgyer made a motion to adopt the agenda as modified. Mrs. Daniels seconded and the modified agenda was adopted.

II. There were no citizens to speak.

III. Mrs. Daniels made a motion to approve the February 2, 2023 minutes as presented. Mrs. Smallwood seconded and the motion carried.

IV. 1. Mrs. Smallwood reported that monthly payables had been reviewed. The Finance Committee noted that there were several expenditures relating to children's and adult programming materials, which they felt was encouraging news. It was also noted that RAPHA funding is fundamental in supplementing materials on behalf of children's programming for the Wise and Dickenson County libraries as well as for the City of Norton youth. 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. Ms. Newsome seconded and the motion carried. Chairman Ellsworth was pleased that he was detecting an increase in the number of programs and attendees as he has been reviewing the 2021-2022 LPRL Annual Report and the monthly statistics. Diverse, creative programming and enhancing LPRL collections are positive expenditures in sustaining the library.

The following check numbers were reported:

	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Ending</u>
General Fund	42774	42834

2. Ms. Stanley, Business Manager, identified budget adjustments made since the beginning of the new year. The IMLS training grant and ARPA grant funds have been reimbursed and expenditures completed. Mr. Allgyer was pleased to learn of the number of contributions to LPRL since the beginning of the fiscal year. After discussion, a motion to approve the budget adjustments as presented was made by Mr. Allgyer. Ms. T. Scott seconded and the motion carried.

V. 1. Director's Report

**Library Highlights**

- Ms. Jessee's PowerPoint report was highlighted with photos of February activities, craft workshops and programming, with themes of Valentine's Day, Groundhog Day, President's Day, and Black History Month. Other events included hosting local authors, Jim Scott Mullins and wife, Teresa Hawkins Mullins, at the Haysi Library and Dickenson County Library enjoyed community guest reader, Josh Evans, member of the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors. Lee County Library partnered with Natural Tunnel State Park to present monthly programs about nature which the children are enjoying. Library programmers continue to celebrate with the children as they accomplish milestone steps toward the 1000 Things Before Kindergarten promotion.

**Administrative Highlights**

- The E-Rate process is ongoing; bids will end soon.
- All budgets for FY2023-24 have been submitted to the localities.
- The Wise County Historical Society continues progressing toward a public opening in their new location in April.
- Ms. Jessee invited trustees to visit with their local library during National Read Across America Week (March 2-6). Each library created an attractive flyer with their scheduled activities. Flyers were distributed in trustee folders.
- LPRL staff are planning activities for National Library Week (April 23-29). More details will be available for the April board meeting.
- Summer Reading plans are underway. Programming materials and prizes have been distributed to the libraries. Administrative staff is finalizing performers and schedules.
- Former LPRL Director, Amy Bond, passed away. Ms. Bond was Library Director from 2003-2019. Arrangements are incomplete. Ms. Jessee will notify trustees of details upon her receipt.
- Ms. Jessee informed trustees that the CreativeBug platform offered on our website ended February 28. CreativeBug was an expenditure funded through our IMLS training grant.
- Preparations are underway for some community engagement events at Wise, Lee and Scott County schools as LPRL partners with Regional Adult and Career Education led by Ms. Rebecca Scott, Regional Program Manager and LPRL Scott County trustee.

Chairman Ellsworth is pleased with the public's response to LPRL's events, old and new, and urged continued interaction of the trustees with their local library. Mr. Allgyer is pleased with the positive presence of the libraries on social media and encouraged use of the local papers as well. Ms. Newsome commented on the great job that the libraries are doing from her represented county of Dickenson. In keeping with a positive presence, she recommended working with the Town of Haysi for some exterior cleaning for the Haysi library. Ms. Jessee noted her recommendation and will follow up.

The following items were distributed in Trustees' folders:

- ❖ Accounts Payable Checks for month of February 2023
- ❖ Financial Statements for January 2023
- ❖ Monthly Stats Reports for January 2023
- ❖ National Read Across America Week flyers from branch libraries

VI. Reports of Committees - None

VII. Unfinished Business - None

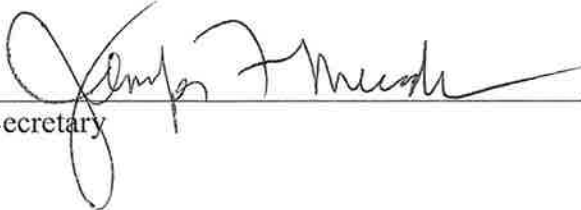
VIII. 1. The Pennington Gap library received a framed Resolution honoring Lee County veteran, Lonnie Evans, for placement in the library. Mrs. Smallwood noted the Resolution was presented to his family as part of a bridge-naming ceremony and reception honoring Mr. Evans conducted by the Town of Pennington Gap. Branch Manager, Ms. Audrey Evans, wanted to share the gift for trustee viewing before placing it in the library. A motion was made by Mrs. Daniels to accept the donation and have it placed in the Lee County Library; seconded by Ms. Newsome. The motion passed.

An announcement was made by Mr. Allgyer that the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual John Fox Jr. Literary Festival is scheduled for March 15 from 10:00 - 12:00 at Mountain Empire Community College. Mr. Silas House is the featured speaker with his latest book "Lark Ascending." A reserved luncheon with the author is scheduled at the John Fox Jr. Museum at 12:30 p.m.

Ms. Newsome made a suggestion of a partnership with the Breaks National Park and the Dickenson County libraries for their children's programming.

A discussion ensued concerning the status of repairs for the leaking roof at Wise County Public Library especially in the Harris Art Gallery. Ms. Jessee stated that maintenance and discussions are ongoing with Wise County. She will continue to update trustees.

No further business was discussed. Chairman Ellsworth adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m. and all signified by rising. He gave out the reminder of April's board meeting being at the Big Stone Gap Library.

  
Secretary

  
Chairman