

Waynesboro Public Library
Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, August 15, 2023, 4:00 p.m.
Mahmoud Conference Room

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairperson Edie Eckman. Present at the meeting were Edie Eckman, Brenci Patiño, Eric Anderson, Melissa Techman, Director Susan Versen, and Friends of the Library representative Kevin Ryan.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the June 20, 2023 minutes.

Director's Report

Circulation is up and above FY20 numbers. June was the highest month so far in 2023. Foot traffic is close to FY20 and computer use is rebounding. July was the highest month in *OverDrive* ever with 1936 checkouts. PC usage declined in the Summer but there were expected Wi-Fi increases. July had the highest number of average Wi-Fi users per day since March 2020.

Summer Reading, from June 1st to July 31st, used *Beanstack* to track challenges and hours of reading. Total sign-ups increased due to better adult participation. Street Art Walk remains popular and will continue in August and September. Special Programs for all ages were popular as well. The Library continued to be invited to places such as Summit Square & River Edge, Groovin' at the Greenway, etc. The Library hosted the Regional Chamber of Commerce's "Aging in Place" Roundtable on August 11 and it is working with Neighbor Bridge to build a little food pantry (food & books), which will be opening on September 1st.

The WPL had the two highest-performing Facebook posts in July. *Wowbrary* has been added as a resource. The Library saw a healthy number of bookings of Meeting and Conference Rooms as well as Study Room reservations in June & July. A new Reference Desk was acquired with the support of the FOL.

There will be a joint meeting of the Valley Library Boards plus Friends and Foundation Boards on September 20th. Lisa Varga, Executive Director of the Virginia Library Association is coming to talk about Public Library Advocacy.

Old Business

The Board discussed revisions to the Public Comment policy of the By-Laws. Susan shared the Staunton Public Library's version as well as what the City has posted for its meetings. Board Vice-President Eric Anderson is working on the document. Brenci Patiño was re-appointed to the Board but is stepping down from her position as secretary. There will also be an election for a new member.

New Business

The new city/library website is live but still in progress. The Board will make a recommendation to the City Council to elect their candidate for the open position. Edie received a letter to the Board from the Virginia Public Library Directors Association, which she shared at the meeting. The Association thanks us for our work and support and encourages us to continue advocating for public libraries and intellectual freedom.

Friends of Library Report

Ryan spoke on behalf of the Library at the Chamber of Commerce's latest meeting. The FOL continues with its book sales at the Waynesboro Farmers Market.

Next meeting

September 20, at 4:00 p.m., at the Augusta County Library, followed by the joint Boards meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenci Patiño, Secretary