

McMinn County Library Board
July 27, 2020

The McMinn County Library Board met on July 27, 2020, at 6 pm. As per Governor Lee's executive order due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held virtually.

In attendance were: Peyton Eastman, Tim Womac, Liz Shreck, Maggie Hoffman, Patricia Ekiss, Mickey Blevins, Lynn Perkinson, Robert Sherwood, Everett Gillespie, and Robin Arms

Tyler Forrest called the meeting to order.

Chairman Forrest introduced Lynn Perkinson as having received a third term on the McMinn County Library Board by the Athens City Council.

Robert Sherwood called for a motion on a Point of Order. He moved that Article 2, paragraph 2 of the McMinn County Library bylaws be suspended. Tim Womac seconded the motion. In the discussion, Chairman Forrest explained that the current by-laws state that "Members are subject to reappointment for a second three-year term." This implies that there is a two-term limit, however, it is not explicit. Since the Library Board does not approve or deny board members, and that the two-term limit is not explicit in the by-laws, the City of Athens appointment stands. Mr. Forrest recommended the adoption of the motion and the appointment of a committee to revise the current bylaws. A voice vote was held. All voted in favor with Everett Gillespie abstaining. The motion passed.

Minutes:

The minutes from the called July 2, 2020 meeting were presented. Chairman Forrest asked for a correction to the vote for Peyton Eastman as interim director to include the abstain vote from Lynn Perkinson. The corrected minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Tim Womac presented the Treasurer's report. He stated that McMinn County Mayor John Gentry approves of how the board decided to disburse the Niota portion of the county monies. Because the money for the libraries from the county is based on population, please encourage everyone to complete the 2020 Census. In June the Finance Committee had to move \$10,000 from the investment account to cover operating costs. Mr. Womac sees many possible financial challenges facing the library as we continue in the pandemic. Chairman Forrest stated that he would like an investment presentation from Jordan Curtis of Simmons Wealth Management at the September meeting.

Library Reports:

Chairman Forrest stated that he would like to extend an invitation for the county library directors and Friends of the Library to give reports at future meetings.
Calhoun - Robert Sherwood reported that there were 16 participants in the Virtual Summer Reading Program. The library is open with a maximum of 5 patrons at a time in the building and masks are required.

EG Fisher - Interim Director Peyton Eastman reported that the curbside checkout service and computer appointments were ongoing. A road map has been created for the future opening as the Pandemic continues. Repairs have been made to HVAC units. Cost-cutting measures have been made with Comcast and in renegotiating the lease of the printer. Grant applications have been submitted. New cards are being issued and the library is preparing to start accepting cash transactions again. Online programming is continuing as well as craft activity packs are available for pickup.

Englewood- Maggie Hoffman reported that the library is still closed.

Etowah- Robin Arms reported that the library was open with COVID restrictions in place. The Summer Reading numbers were lower than normal due to the virtual status. Online storytimes are continuing.

ORRL- Liz Shreck reported that the libraries should be hearing from the Cares Grant soon. The Tech Grant has been moved back to August 15, 2020. Re-certification for Trustees has now been extended to a 6-year time frame. Trustee certification will help the library with the Tech Grant.

Search Committee:

Mickey Blevins reported that there are currently 6 applicants for the position of EG Fisher Library Director. The Deadline for applications is August 15, 2020. The board will bring its recommendation to the November meeting. The goal of the committee is to have a director in place by January 2021. Liz Shreck recused herself from assisting the committee due to the fact that her assistant has submitted an application. Lynn Perkinson asked about the requirement of a MOLS degree at EG Fisher Library's level. It is suggested but it is not required for a director to hold the degree.

Committee Assignments:

Chairman Forrest stated that he will send an email for signup for committee assignments, He would like to set up the following committees: Policy, Infrastructure, By-laws, and Nominating.

New Business:

Tim Womac reported that he hoped to bring a proposed budget for the September meeting.

Discussion was held concerning EG Fisher Library applying for the Paycheck Protection Program Loan. Chairman Tyler Forrest suggested that if the loan was obtained, a new account should be set up just for those monies. This would make it easier to track the spending of this loan.

Tim Womac made a motion to apply for the Paycheck Protection Program Loan and for a new bank account to be opened for the purpose of handling these funds. Patricia Ekiss seconded. A voice vote was held. The motion passed unanimously.

Reopening of EG Fisher Library: A huge thank you to Robert Sherwood for all that he has done in preparing the library for a pandemic reopening including the building of plexiglass shields and the purchase of cleaning supplies. There is a 4 phase reopening plan. Maggie Hoffman made a motion that the library is to reopen at the level 3 modified plan in conjunction with the local

schools reopening. Patricia Ekiss Seconded. A voice vote was held with all ayes. Motion passed

Patricia moved to place Tyler Forrest's name on the BBT and Simmons bank accounts and to remove Robert Sherwood's. Maggie Hoffman seconded the motion. A voice vote was held with all Ayes. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments: None

Other Business:

Lynn Perkinson reported that the Friends of the Library were holding its own. However, they have authorized to offer up to \$500 if an emergency need arises at EG Fisher.

Robin Arms moved to adjourn the meeting and Patricia Ekiss seconded.

The next meeting will be on September 28, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Arms - secretary