

McMinn County Library Board
1289 Ingleside Avenue
Athen, Tennessee 37303

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 27, 2026 at 6:00pm

Present - Chairman Tyler Boyd, Vice Chairman Mickey Blevins, Treasurer Tim Womac, Secretary Ashley Smith, EGFPL Director Rebekah (Becky) Coleman, Regional Library Director Liz Schreck, and MCLB members Tyler Forrest, Kay Harper, and Dwight Jordan. MCLB members Jan Dingess and Jacob Burnette were absent.

- I. Call to Order, Establish Quorum, and Acknowledgements - Chairman Tyler Boyd recognized former chairman Tyler Forrest with plaque for 6 years of service as chair.
- II. Public Comment - None
- III. Approval of Minutes - Presentation of minutes by Chairman Tyler Boyd from May 26, 2026 meeting. Board Member Tyler Forrest made a motion to accept the minutes. Board member Kay Harper seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Treasure's Report - Treasurer Tim Womac compared the income for May 2025 to May 2026. In May 2025 income received Friends of the Library funds, while May 2026 included capital funds for the new fire alarm system and the top grant. Expenses for the fire alarm and summer reading program. He then compared June 2025 to June 2026. June 2026 with added expenses for the summer reading program. Discussion of budget accounts; Simmons, County, and City. Reviewed funds pulled from Simmons twice in the last few months; March and again in May to cover payroll and fire alarm expenses that did not coincide with deposits from the County/City. Then again funds needed to be moved to cover payroll for July. Tim Womac reviewed board policy regarding the Simmons account. He suggested to alleviate the last minute transfers from the Simmons account that according to policy we may pull about \$19,000/year and still maintain the minimum balance required in the account. The board discussed options of regularly drawing funds from the Simmons account to avoid further scares that income and expenses (payroll) will not align. Tim Womac suggested a twice yearly draw; January/July. Tyler Forrest agreed that July is a necessary time to draw funds to cover "drought" between County/City checks. Board member Tyler Boyd motioned to approve twice yearly draw from Simmons account in January and July. Board member Tyler Forrest seconded. The motion passed unanimously. There was another discussion of budget changes over the last couple of years. Payroll has increased 3% per year since 2024. An examination of the budget will be conducted. As one category increases another will need to be decreased.

V. Library Reports

- A. Calhoun - Ms. Rogers reported on the Summer Reading Event; Dino Dig for eggs on May 29th. July 18th was a river tour and boat dock. Planning two events, one a library training to use Libby. As well as an open house to encourage patron usage, informational meetings on what resources are available at the library, etc.
- B. E.G. Fisher - Library Director Becky Coleman shared statistics on year end library usage. The library had 80,000 visitors in the last year. Highlights of the year include a joint job fair in April and two private events hosted in the wetlands pergola and the amphitheater. Looking at policies to encourage usage of these outdoor resources.
- C. E.G. Fisher Friends of the Library - Bo Perkinson reviewed the Noon Book talk's continued success which includes lunch. The next two books will be in August, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, and September *Sound and Fury*. The book sale brought in about \$10,500, the largest sale so far with no price increase for books. The book sale is a great community event for everyone. EG Friends joined the state Friends organization and will be attending the annual meeting in October.
- D. Englewood - Tyler Boyd presented on behalf of Jan Dingess. June had 182 patrons and 144 computer users. On July 6th they had their summer reading program party with story time, crafts, ice cream and free books. They had 14 children and 16 adults attend.
- E. Etowah - Kay Harper shared about the Etowah library renovations. They will be installing new drywall, water repairs, etc. in August which may result in library closures. They have two summer interns. Their fiscal year end statistics from April 25-June 26 show 3924 visitors and 47 new library cards issued.
- F. Regional - Liz Schreck shared example calendars that are available to keep track of when various library policies need to be reviewed and when they were last updated. Reminder of the September 24th trustee workshop. (We need at least one board member to attend.) The Title VI supplements materials budget. Summer is a busy time for libraries as they are completing their annual standards surveys and tech grant applications. June 2026 READS statistics for ebooks and audiobooks. She wants to have new round table meetings to identify AI written books to prevent them from library circulation. Statistics for county per capita library county ratings were also shared. McMinn County rankings 54 for income and 70 per capita. The rank has risen for McMinn County. Capital income increases do not count toward overall per capita rank towards the libraries. The rank only includes regular expenditures/income.

VI. Old Business

- A. MCLB Book Order/Dispositions - The notebooks with dispositions are always available.
- B. EGFPL Adult Library Card Access Policy - see discussion under new business
- C. EGFPL Room Reservation Forms and Policy - Various members added to the discussion comparing current policy to the room use policies of other libraries

and non profits, such as McMinn County Highschool. The community room is designed for community use not for profit business. Exceptions are author book talks with books sales available. Becky Coleman confirmed that fees are to cover maintenance costs of room use. Decided to leave policy as is, room use is subject to library director discretion. Becky will continue to do more research to ensure that policy is implemented consistently for all patrons. This item will be revisited during the September meeting.

VII. New Business

- A. EGFPL Experience Passes Policy - Becky Coleman proposed changes to current policy of late returns of experience passes as late returns hinder other patrons from using the passes. Tim Womac suggests signage near passes to inform patrons of the change. Motion to change by Ashley Smith. Dwight Jordan seconded. Changes passed with unanimous vote.
- B. EGFPL Out of House Equipment Policy - Becky Coleman proposes changes to the policy for "library of things" and establishes rules for non traditional items checked out from the library. Tim Womac motions to change policy. Mickey Blevins seconded. Policy changes passed unanimously. Liz Schreck suggested adding replacement costs as new items are acquired.
- C. EGFPL Circulation Policy - Becky Coleman shared that they will be having a policy review meeting on August 14th from 2-4pm in the board room. Invited the library board to attend, and a copy of the policy changes was sent out previously. If two or more board members are present a public notice must be provided.
- D. EGFPL Internet Safety Policy - A return to the discussion of the internet use policy. Becky Coleman's proposed change is that a computer pass may be available upon request for those without a library card. Various members added to discussion to ensure that those requesting computer use without a card are not avoiding late fees or those that are eligible for a card, but not getting one. Calhoun library has a guest pass for those patrons needing a computer without a library card. Tyler Boyd asked if there is a way to limit computer use to 15 minutes at a specific computer. At this time it is too difficult to monitor such a computer. Becky Coleman mentioned that with future tech improvements there could be timers placed on computers, or limit computer use based on library fines. Current computer use statistics from June 1-July 18 had 670 users with an average 1.5 hours per use. Tyler Forrest motioned for policy change that a guest pass is available upon request without a library card. However, minors must have a library card in order to use any computers at the library. Kay Harper seconded. Policy change passed with unanimous vote.
- E. EGFPL Staff Member Retirement Accounts - Becky Coleman researched options for retirement accounts other than TCRS including a simple IRA and an Empower plan. Becky did check with the city and the library employees are not eligible to join the city plan. These retirement options are for Richelle Brinkley and Cindy Scott. Tyler Forrest recommended moving away from TCRS, but before making such a decision the cost of leaving TCRS should be determined first as there

may be exorbitant fees. Also we need to find out how many individuals are still on the TCRS plan. Other questions to ask about are the ease of signs up for the various plans. No action tonight; will revisit at the September meeting.

Reminders - August 14th is the policy review from 2-4pm in the board room. Continue your Trustee Training if not completed. Our next board meeting is September 28th.

Chairman Boyd adjourned the meeting at 7:36pm.