

BRUNSWICK COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Meeting Minutes – January 22, 2024

The Brunswick County Library Board met on January 22, 2024 in the Barbee Library meeting room. Chair Jeff Mount called the meeting to order at 3:55 PM.

Members present: Jeff Mount, Diana Dornfeld, Barbara Akinwole, Diana Fotinatos, June Jones, Emma Myles, Marilyn Shapiro, Anne Smith and Mary Stilwell representing a quorum.

Also present: Patricia Dew, Library Director; Karen Robbins, Rourk FOL president; Richard and Florence Mason, Southport residents.

Members absent: none

Minutes of the October 23, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

Director Dew’s Report:

Survey Results

Results of the Brunswick County Library Community Survey conducted from November 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 were presented. The survey was taken by 1006 library users with all five branches being well represented. Key findings include:

- a need for increased collections, especially large print and bestsellers
- requests to replace books that are in poor condition
- more physical spaces in the branches
- more accessibility, parking and better furnishings
- more branch locations and increased hours
- more programs and tech help
- self-checkout

NC Cardinal

Exciting news to expand the collection is that the Brunswick County Library will be joining NC Cardinal within the next 12 to 18 months. NC Cardinal is a consortium of North Carolina public libraries that share an online catalog and integrated library system (ILS), and share resources with other member libraries. It is a program of the State Library of North Carolina, supported by grant funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Federal Library Services and Technology Act. More than 80,000 items move among the member libraries each month. Resource sharing, which launched in February 2013, has had two immediate impacts on patrons: (1) member libraries have seen hold request wait times cut from an average of 6.5 days to 1.8 days, and (2) patrons now have access to numerous materials they previously didn’t. Daily, NC Cardinal libraries pull a list of hold requests from the ILS, package these items, and ship them to their partner libraries in the consortium through a shared shipping account. Patrons of member libraries enjoy this service at no cost.

Branch Operations

As Patricia Dew closes in on two years as Library Director, it was reported the branches are doing well overall. There has been much change, some turnover, many new hires, and a focus on

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staff development. Jeff Mount noted the library has come a long way under Patricia Dew's leadership which was met with applause.

Hunter Miller, MLS, Youth Library Assistant has taken charge of the summer reading program across all five branches and has the planning well under control. She is a welcome addition to the staff and is working on engaging with local schools.

As system wide improvements are considered, the following priorities were suggested:

1. establish a new branch in the middle of the county
2. expand Rourk branch
3. replace Leland branch
4. move Harper and use the existing building for historical collections

It was noted that Bolivia and Boiling Spring Lakes have each requested a branch library for their communities. Co-locating Brunswick Senior Resources, Parks & Rec, and the Library were discussed.

The bookmobile contract is in process. When it is approved, the book mobile can be ordered. Delivery will likely be one year from the date it is ordered.

Unfinished Business:

A motion to change the bylaws moving the annual meeting from October to September due to the increase frequency of meetings was made by Diana Dornfeld, seconded by Anne Smith and carried unanimously.

New Business:

After review and discussion of the Collection Development Policy, a motion to accept it with two corrections was made by Marilyn Shapiro, seconded by Barbara Akinwole and carried unanimously.

Public Comments:

The board was asked about the frequency of weeding the collection. All staff have a secondary duty to weed collection. It is an ongoing process that depends on staffing and timing.

Diana Fotinatos is exploring library access for inmates of the Brunswick County Detention Center. Mary Stillwell suggested Lieutenant Erica Patelos as a Brunswick County Sheriffs Department contact.

The meeting was adjourned by Jeff Mount at 5:02 PM.

Upcoming meetings:

- Monday, March 25, 2024 at 4:00 PM - Harper Library, 109 W. Moore Street, Southport
- Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 4:00 PM – Rourk Library, 5068 Main Street, Shallotte
- Monday, July 22, 2024 at 4:00 PM – Southwest Branch Library, 9400 Ocean Hwy W, Carolina Shores

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- Monday, September 23, 2024 at 4:00 PM, ANNUAL MEETING – Leland Library, 487 Village Rd NE, Leland

Respectively submitted,
Diana Fotinatos, Board Secretary