

Anna Porter Public Library
January 9, 2024 Minutes

6:05 p.m. Call to Order

Present: Debi Vernath, Pam Papworth, Lisa Oakley, Beverly Waldron, Kenton Temple, Sharon Mellor, Karen Bentz, Mandie Muehlhausen (Director), Matthew Jordan (Regional Director).

Not Present: Sally Helton and Tracy Starker due to flooding and weather advisories

Minutes of November 13, 2023 APPL Trustees Meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report:

Pam Papworth informed the board that the Finance Committee will meet before the March meeting to prepare a draft budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Director's Report:

Mandie Muehlhausen's report hit the highlights of the good work done since the November board meeting.

An update was given regarding the results of the ongoing court situation. The gentleman refused to accept the judge's decision in small claims court so the case will move on to the Grand Jury. Kenton attended court with Mandie and complemented her on how prepared and well-spoken she was. Board members discussed looking into how we handle situations in the future with unpaid fines or replacement costs incurred for higher priced items.

Regional Director's Report:

Matthew Jordan provided updates from the regional library.

Committee Reports:

Bylaws and Policies:

No report submitted

Finance and Building:

Committee will meet before the March 12th board meeting to develop a draft budget which will be presented at that meeting.

Long-Range Planning:

Beverly Waldron continued working with Mandie on a plan for implementing the first phase of strategic planning which entails interviewing/surveying the public, hopefully at Food City. Suggested questions were circulated before the meeting and discussed. Beverly will continue to work on the survey questions and incorporate suggestions. Discussion also revolved around logistics of how the surveys would be carried out and other particulars re: shifts, signage, etc. Beverly will report back in March with more information and details for implementation.

Promotion and Public Relations:

Karen Bentz discussed ways that APPL could not only promote its programs to the public, but also create support and relationships in leadership and business circles. Discussion centered on hosting a meet and greet for Convention and Visitors Bureau staff and others we would like to introduce to what the library does and how it serves and contributes to the community.

New Business:

May 2024 is the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of Anna Porter Public Library in its location on Baskins Creek Road. The board began discussing the opportunity for hosting a program or series of programs to celebrate the library and this anniversary or other areas of focus. Highlighting the library's history is a great way to share the resources and the mission of the Smoky Mountain Collection in particular. The board asked the staff to continue to consider programming. Mandie also has ideas of improvements, etc. that would accompany programs.

Beverly Waldron presented a draft template for committee chairs to complete re: the committee and chairperson's functions. Comments and suggestions should be brought to the March meeting for Beverly to work into a proposal for the May board meeting.

Old Business:

Mandi reported the outside lights have not been fixed.

Karen reported that Nandinas were suggested for the plantings in front of the library.

Tracy Starker restored and restocked the book box at Food City. There are Mountain Press boxes that can also be refinished and used by the library for promotional materials, etc.

New Business:

Debi Vernath asked board members to consider nominees to fill the board positions opening with the new year. Resumes and introductory information should be brought to the March meeting.

Debi Vernath moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.