

Board of Trustees of Charlotte County Library

Board Meeting Minutes

July 3, 2024

The Board of Trustees of the Charlotte County Library met on Wednesday, July 3rd at 3:45 in the Bruce Building. Present were Eleanor Williams (Chair), Ree Cathey, Jean Elliott, Barbara Hamlett, Martha Brogdon, Winnie Morris, Teresa Osborne, and Maggie Allbee (Librarian). There were no absences.

The minutes and financial report from the prior meeting were approved.

The Keysville Branch is doing well, but the town has yet to replace the basement windows. The door lock is also difficult to open sometimes. Maggie will reach out. As far as we know, the town has not installed the security camera yet. The Keysville Branch is done with its weeding project, and now there are so many spots for book displays.

The Wyliesburg Branch is still dealing with skunks spraying near the building. It has happened several times. One of the landlord's relatives placed a board with a cinder block in front of the crawl space hole, in the hopes it helps keep animals away. Between this and the disappearing parking lot, Maggie wanted to know if perhaps we could just let our lease expire and move out. Ree looked at her notes and said the current lease was signed in January 2021, so it is not expiring anytime soon. The poor cooling of the building and the cat that was able to get inside makes us wonder if there is a hole in the ductwork. Teresa will call Griffith to see if they can check the ductwork for holes. To draw more attention to the building, Maggie will look at additional signage – a blue library sign for the roadside and a window decal. The Wyliesburg branch will be weeded next.

The Phenix Branch is also doing fine. There was a discussion about finding someone to paint a mural on the building's exterior, as we have been unsuccessful in finding anyone willing to do so. A suggestion was made to also ask Jeremy Elder if he would be interested. Maggie will call the town to see about getting approval to do the mural.

The Main Branch needs some plaques for the beautiful paintings donated by Mr. Herman Schmidt. The two paintings were done by his late wife, and he asked we put some nice plaques next to them. Maggie will look for something appropriate. There was a discussion about the tea houses in the library garden. Some minor vandalism occurred there, and to prevent more, the board is interested in installing solar-powered motion detecting lights or trail cameras. Maggie had some questions about some of the old junk out back behind the Bruce building. The marble bust needs to stay where it is, but Theresa Hall's sister is going to repair and refinish two of the

old benches and put them on the front porch of Bruce. We still have not found anyone who can seal the floor in Little Bruce. The Friends are now selling tote bags to raise funds for the library. The recent book sale netted close to \$1,000.

The board decided to donate \$100 in memory of Velda Agee, a local lady who passed away recently. She was a big supporter of the Keysville Library. The funds will be donated to the Charlotte County Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Maggie talked about Summer Reading. There have been at least 64 people signed up, and the storytimes are well-attended. The Friends have been a big help. Maggie is working on putting together ideas for the prize packs. A newspaper article about Summer Reading will be in the paper soon. Summer Reading ends August 1st. Also, Main and Keysville now have shelf themes – any patron who can guess the theme of the month for the displayed books gets a piece of candy. Monday, July 8th is the library's 87th birthday, so there will be cupcakes and birthday cards to sign. Maggie also told the board how she recently found out that anytime the state sends the library extra money, the county does not pass it along to the library, but uses the extra funds to alleviate its financial support of the library. This is against state law, and if the Library of Virginia finds out about it, they might pull all the funding they usually send to the library, which is about 25-33% of the overall budget. Maggie is going to talk to the County Board of Supervisors about it.

The next board meeting will be on August 7th at 3:45 in the Bruce Building. The meeting was adjourned.