

Board of Trustees of Charlotte County Library

Board Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2024

The Board of Trustees of the Charlotte County Library met on Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 3:45 in the Bruce Building. Present were Eleanor Williams (Chair), Ree Cathey, Jean Elliott, Barbara Hamlett, Teresa Osborne, Martha Brogdon and Maggie Allbee (Librarian). Winnie Morris was absent.

The minutes from the August 2024 meeting were approved. The financial reports for August 2024 were approved.

The Keysville Branch is doing fine. They just need some bulb replacements in the chandeliers, and the front door lock is loose, causing it to not work very well. Maggie has reached out to the town office to request a repair to the lock. The basement windows still appear to be boarded up. Recently, the town installed security cameras on the exterior of the building. One faces the stairwell and the other faces the front door. The cameras run off of a wifi signal that Zack set up for the town at no cost.

The Wyliesburg Branch is still dealing with skunks spraying near the building every once in a while, and the air conditioning seems to be working much better now that the weather has cooled off. Maggie is still looking into window decals for the library's front windows to draw more attention to the building. There are many options! Weeding at Wyliesburg is happening gradually.

The Phenix Branch is also doing fine. Maggie reported that due to changes in the way the Town of Phenix receives its funding, they are unable to contribute financially to the cost of the mural. Eleanor had an idea to solve this issue. She showed an image of the Kansas City Public Library, which has giant book spines painted along one of its walls. Eleanor suggested we could see if patrons want to sponsor a book spine, and then Jeremy can incorporate their names into the design. There is also the desire to have a sign over the door. Maggie will explore options. Barbara proposed the idea of having a table for the Phenix Library at Christmas Days (first Saturday in December), and keeping the library open during that time, in order to encourage people to visit the Phenix Branch. The Friends can also join library staff at the table.

The Main Branch has a lot happening. A community member offered to clean the graffiti off the tea houses for us. The board also asked Maggie to buy solar-powered motion detection lights. Maggie reported the bathroom in the Hoy building smells musty, and that county maintenance is painting the ceiling in the biography room, since the paint that was in there was lead-based.

Library staff decided to remove the large bookcase in the room to make room for a large table and chairs. County Maintenance removed the bookcase for us, and they will put it in County Surplus with a note saying it belongs to the library. The library can have it back whenever it wants. Maggie also reported that Jimmy Whirley cannot seal the floor of Little Bruce, so the library will have to look elsewhere. Meanwhile, the shelves are slowly filling up with donations and weeded books from Wylliesburg in preparation for the Fall Book Sale (date TBD).

Maggie, Eleanor, Barbara, Jean, and Martha attended the August 14th meeting of the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors to inquire about the way library funding from the state is handled. After explaining the money is meant to supplement, not replace, local funding, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to give the library all funding due to it from the state. The library will now have a much bigger book budget and more money for supplies.

Maggie has also been working on planning fall programs (storytimes and book club). She has also been working on getting the new library website closer to being ready for the deadline of September 30th. In preparation for the new site, Maggie paid to upgrade the library's online catalog page. Now, cover images appear for the books, making the catalog look a lot more inviting, and Maggie can make cover carousels for new books. This cost \$1,000 – a third less than what we thought it would be. This price is an annual fee, and it will go up a little every year.

Maggie also purchased small plaques for the art donated by Herman Schmidt.

Crystal Vaughan will gradually be taking on a bigger role in Children's Programming.

The next board meeting will be on October 2nd at 3:45 in the Bruce Building. The meeting was adjourned.