

Carroll County Public Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Finksburg Branch Library  
March 30, 2022  
Minutes

*Prior to the meeting former Board members Bill Bates, Cindy Piazza, and Karen Soisson were honored for their service to CCPL. Ms. Muller and Ms. Hart read citations and presented a book to each that will be put in the collection.*

### 1. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Ms. Harrison called the meeting to order at 6:55 pm and declared there was quorum.

Present:

Garima Chaturvedi	Virginia Harrison	Kendra Hart	Joyce Muller
Dave O'Callaghan			

Staff Present:

Andrea Berstler	Karla Dorsey	Tony Eckard	Karen Gonsman
Bob Kuntz	Polly O'Hair	Heather Owings	Lisa Picker
Stephanie Szymanski	Joe Thompson	Dottie Wolf	

Also present: Allison Malachowski, member of the Finksburg Library Veteran's Book Club. The winners of CCPL's History Expo prizes: Sawyer Little and Allison Sullivan and their families. Former Board Members: Bill Bates, Cindy Piazza, and Karen Soisson.

### 2. History Expo Winners

Allison Sullivan and Sawyer Little were awarded the CCPL prizes for their Celebrating America (CA) History Expo 2022 projects. This year's National History Day Theme was Debate and Diplomacy. Allison's Junior project was called Is It A Crime to Love?. Sawyer's Senior project was The Failure of the Kyoto Protocols. The prizes included a book on how to do historical research and a \$50 gift card. The Board congratulated Allison and Sawyer and gave them a round of applause.

### 3. Finksburg Branch Report

Heather Owings, Branch Manager gave the Finksburg Branch Library report and noted that she has been in the system for 18 years. Ms. Owings introduced Dottie Wolf representing Staff Association; Karla Dorsey, the newest Finksburg staff member and also Polly O'Hair who works at Exploration Commons, both were in attendance for Library Associate Training Institute (LATI). Customers commented in a public survey that the Finksburg staff are wonderful, knowledgeable, helpful, and responsive. In-person storytimes are back, and everyone is excited. Statistics and staff accomplishments were noted and included Children's Services Supervisor Melanie Fitz as an Advisory Board member on an Erikson Group project, bilingual storytimes and ESOL work with CCPS, 905 one-on-one computer trainings, notary service, monitoring and updating of the 1001 Community Directory entries, Trivia Nights at Bistro 91, Max Eber's article in *Horticulture* magazine, and Narcan training received by 15 staff members. COVID test kits and mask availability has brought back customers who haven't been in for a while. In addition to fishing rods and Go Pro cameras, a Memory Lab, a way to preserve histories, will be available soon. A special collection of books about Maryland native gardens has been started due to a generous donation

along with backpacks for kids with a similar focus will also be available soon. The branch gardens provide a beautiful backdrop for socially distanced programs. The master gardeners appreciated the 50 student service hours that helped keep the gardens in great shape. Among the many take home kits were ones for teen volunteers that help continue the Learning Advantage Partnership with the school system. The Veteran's Book Club is a partnership with Celebrating America and the local Veteran's Project, it started in 2016. Heather introduced Alison Malachowski who reported on the Book Club's activities.

Allison Malachowski is a member of the Veteran's Book Club and liaison with the Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council, who helps to coordinate and facilitate some of the discussions and activities of the Club. Ms. Malachowski is a veteran of the Marine Corps and the mother of a Marine who was killed in Afghanistan. Ms. Malachowski thanked the branch staff for allowing them to meet at the library and for all their support including books, tech support, and an evening meal. There are over 30 people on the email list and 20 usually attend the discussions. The staff provides suggestions for titles and the group makes decisions on what they will read. Ms. Berstler thanked Ms. Malachowski for her service and sacrifice for the county.

Dr. Hart and the Board acknowledged appreciation for Ms. Owings and the team for all the things happening in the branch.

#### **4. Minutes of February 23, 2022**

*Mr. O'Callaghan moved to approve the Minutes of February 23, 2022. Ms. Muller seconded. Approval was unanimous.*

#### **5. Financial Statement**

Tony Eckard reviewed the Financial Statement that ended on February 28, 2022. These items were noted: cash balance is over \$2 million, major revenues are at budget, salary savings are at \$297,000 which is mostly from hourly positions. The item for security guards has been changing due to the temporary closing of Westminster for construction and the need for guards at Taneytown. We are still waiting on some Exploration Commons invoices from the County. Mr. Eckard has been in touch with the Community Foundation with hopes of having an updated statement of our account next month.

The budget presentation was held on Tuesday, March 29. Ms. Berstler thanked Ms. Muller and Mr. O'Callaghan for attending the hearing with the Commissioners yesterday. The presentation was well-received. Ms. Muller and Mr. O'Callaghan noted that Ms. Berstler and the staff did an excellent job.

#### **6. Correspondence and Announcements**

- a. A wonderful thank you from a team at the Adult After Hours Battle of the Books was received. Recent press was noted and included the Deer Park Story Stroll and the African American Read-In.

Board members received the first printed edition of *Currents* since COVID. Ms. Picker noted after COVID we have updated this publication to shift the focus to a more semi-timeless approach. All branches have monthly program lists that are produced separately. Ms. Berstler congratulated the Communications department for a project well-done.

## 7. Citizens' Time

There were no citizens present. Dottie Wolf reported on Staff Association activities including the decision for the Association to fundraise to support Dove House this year.

## 8. Executive Director's Report

Staff continue to work with the Health Dept to distribute test kits and masks. All locations have returned to in-person programs and those programs are very successful. Our partnership with McDaniel College on the Human Library went very well. It was noted there are other types of these programs that we could investigate. A meeting was held today to discuss onboarding for new staff. Legislative matters were noted and included the Maryland public library funding bill. The preliminary injunction due to copyright laws, from the American Publishers Association has been upheld by a judge. This bill may be rewritten next year, it will probably go national since other states are also looking at this type of legislation. How electronic materials circulate was explained.

Dr. Hart asked about items that have not yet been addressed in the Climate Study and Ms. Berstler said that more of the items in the study are being addressed in upcoming stages of the Strategic Plan. Joe Thompson has been nominated for an American Library Association (ALA) Councilor-at-Large spot. Ms. Berstler, Ms. Bishop, and Mr. Kuntz attended the Public Library Association Conference in Portland, Oregon last week. They had over 700 in person, and 600 for the virtual presentation on the Exploration Commons project and answered many questions. They also networked with other libraries that have kitchen projects and noted the emphasis on workforce development for these spaces. April will be very busy with the Battle of the Books coming up. Dr. Hart is emceeding a battle this year, as is Ms. Berstler. Between May and October, CCPL will be hosting the Chamber's Commissioner breakfasts at our branches.

Exploration Commons financials were discussed and it was noted that we are waiting on some negotiations between the architect, contractor, county, and library in order to get the last invoices. The elevator passed inspection.

It was noted that three of the current commissioners are running for other offices this year. One commissioner is running again for commissioner. They all understand how vital the library is and appreciate the library's value.

Ms. Harrison asked if there were any other questions, there were none.

## 9. Adjournment

***Ms. Chaturvedi moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. O'Callaghan seconded. Approval was unanimous.***

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Virginia Harrison  
Vice Chair