

Donna B. Calvert, Library Section Director

A regular meeting of the West Virginia Library Commission was held on **Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 10:00am** in the R. David Childers Conference Room located at 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E. Charleston, WV 25305.

**Roll Call:**

Commissioners in attendance: Chair Charlie Morris. Commissioners attending via ZOOM: Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith, Commissioner Chris Rockenstein, Vice Chair Beth Hammers. Absentee Commissioners: Commissioner Robbie Skinner, Commissioner Carrie Abraham, Commissioner Debra Sullivan.

**Call to Order:**

Chair Charlie Morris moves to call the meeting to order. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 10:02am.

**Approval of July 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes:**

Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith moves to approve the minutes and dispense with their reading. Vice Chair Beth Hammers seconds the motion. None oppose. Motion carries. There being no corrections, the minutes are approved.

**Public Comments:**

Kanawha County Public Library Director Erica Connelly and Assistant Director Sarah Mitchell spoke to the Commission on the success of the 2023 WV Book Festival.

West Virginia Library Association President Megan Tarbett spoke to the success of the 2023 WVLA Fall Conference that was held on October 11th through 13th in Huntington, WV. The WVLA will be emailing all conference attendees a post conference survey.

**Financial Report:**

Library Section Director Donna Calvert introduces the section's new Administrative Services Director Brent Epling, who presents the section's first quarter 2024 financial report. The section is on course to spend its fiscal year 2024 appropriations by the end of June 2024. The 2022 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant period ended on September 30, 2023 and the Library Section successfully spent down those funds. Priority was given to consortia reimbursements for technology and cataloging services as well as database resources available to all the state's public libraries.

Chair Charlie Morris asks for comments or questions. Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith comments that Brent Epling is a huge welcome change for the Library Section and has done an excellent job thus far. Brent has experience in the Legislature working with the Finance Committee.

**Financial and P-Card Report Approval:**

Chair Charlie Morris asks for a motion to approve the Financial and Purchasing Card reports. Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith moves. Vice Chair Beth Hammers seconds. No further discussion. None oppose. Motion carries. Reports approved.

**Director Report:** Presented by Library Section Director Donna Calvert:

Director Donna Calvert introduced the section's new librarian Derek Faux who will be working as our reference reading room librarian. An update is given on the section's vacancies and the ongoing progress filing said vacancies.

Dr. Monica Brooks with Marshall University announced, at the 2023 WVLA Fall Conference, that after conducting a successful feasibility study, Marshall University will begin providing a master degree program in Library and Information Science within the next eighteen to twenty-four months. The program will come with ALA accreditation within two years that would be retroactive. This will be the first ever Library School in West Virginia. Chair Charlie Morris and Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith comment on the importance of this. Director Donna Calvert comments on the Library Section's potential future involvement supporting internships, scholarships, and a graduate fellowship that would include college credit hours.

The Library Section was able to expand our statewide database offerings. Tutor.com, TumbleBooks Library, TumbleMath, Teen Book Cloud, and National Geographic Kids were all added.

Director Donna Calvert comments on the section's participation at the 2023 WV Library Association's Fall Conference and the 2023 WV Book Festival.

Director Donna Calvert gives an update on the WV Office of Technology library re-cabling project. Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith along with other Cabinet Secretaries will be meeting with the WV Office of Technology tomorrow.

Director Donna Calvert comments on WebTitan internet filtering replacement and reboot-refresh software replacement of Fortres Grand with Deep Freeze.

Director Donna Calvert comments on her work with The West Virginia Office of Broadband and the Digital Equity Pilot Program. The libraries have been instrumental in helping distribute the broadband survey out to the public.

Through the Center for the Book and One Book One WV, Library Section staff attended the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C. How Strange This Weather Has Been by WV author Anne Pancake and Counting On Katherine were the WV books presented.

Director Donna Calvert comments on Family Reads week scheduled for November 12th through 19th. The theme this year is Read, Grow and Inspire. The poster has been mailed to the libraries. Also, the collaborative summer library program theme was announced and will be Adventure Begins at your Library.

Director Donna Calvert comments on the great news for blind and print disabled, Special Services department has received sixty new refreshable braille e-readers.

Library Facilities grant application window closed on October 15th. Nineteen libraries submitted applications. The applications totaled \$2,698,435.12. This figure is well over the one million that was placed in the fund. Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith advised the figure shows the need and will be presented to the Legislature to ask for future fund increases. The applications will be thoroughly reviewed as a competitive grant.

Director Donna Calvert advised that the Loss of Population grants are now in the VSS portal for the seventy libraries to go in and obtain their challenge money. Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith comments that all seventy have been signed.

Director Donna Calvert comments on other issues that may be coming up in the Legislative session concerning budget and freedom to read.

Director Donna Calvert gives an update on completing the 2023 BiblioStat report with the help of Hamlin-Lincoln County Public Library Director Melissa Brown.

Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith asks Director Donna Calvert to further comment on www.tutor.com. Director Donna Calvert comments that tutor.com and the other new databases came highly recommended from librarians out in the field and from the research done by Library Section Librarian Amanda Proper.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

Chair Charlie Morris asks when the next scheduled Commission meeting is. Library Section Administrative Assistant Monica Keeney advises that the next Commission meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2024. This date was voted upon at the January 17, 2023 meeting.

Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith asks Chair Charlie Morris to officially submit into the minutes a record of commendation for the staff of the Library Section and Director Donna Calvert for their work and accomplishments. Chair Charlie Morris asks for a motion. Vice Chair Beth Hammers moves. Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith seconds the motion. Chair Charlie Morris advises by acclamation we will approve it. All in favor. None oppose. The motion unanimously carries.

Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith requests to officially submit into the minutes a record of commendation for the Legislative Committee of the WV Library Association for all of their help in getting all of our goals ready for the upcoming legislative session. Chair Charlie Morris asks for a motion. Vice Chair Beth Hammers moves. Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith seconds the motion. All in favor. None oppose. The motion unanimously carries.

**Announcements:**

Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith announces that the Mayor of Matewan is the new president of the Mingo County Public Library Board.

**Adjournment:**

At 10:37am

Respectfully submitted,

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Chair, Charlie Morris

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Director, Donna Calvert