
Anderson County Board of Commissioners

6:00 P. M.

Courtesy Resolutions/Proclamations, Presentations

Presentation: A Responsible Community Protects It's Children – by Dana and Becky Hofseth

6:30 P.M.

**Consent Agenda
Monday, June 19, 2023**

- 1. Approval and corrections of May 15, 2023 County Commission Minutes.**
- 2. Approval of Notary and Bonds**
- 3. Committee Reports**
 - Rules Committee Minutes (6/12/23)
 - Library Board Minutes (4/13/23)

**Respectfully Submitted,
Joshua Anderson, Chairman**

Anderson County Board of Commissioners
Rules Committee
Minutes

June 12, 2023 3:30 PM
Room 312

Members Present: Tyler Mayes, Michael Foster, Aaron Wells, Anthony Allen and Bob Smallridge

Members Absent: None

Call to Order: Vice-Chairman Smallridge called the meeting to order.

Others Present:

Commissioner Allen made a motion to approve the April 6, 2023 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Mayes. Motion passed.

Commissioner Allen made a motion to nominate Commissioner Smallridge as Chairman. Motion passed.

Commissioner Mayes made a motion to nominate Commissioner Allen as Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Wells moved to cease nomination. Motion Passed.

Commissioner Mayes made a motion to defer discussion of the number of citizens allowed to speak on any one issue for 90 days. Seconded by Commissioner Allen. Motion passed.

No Action Taken on the discussion of additional disclosure for agenda items especially where action is expected.

No Action on any input from Commissioners, Elected Officials or Department Heads.

New Business

None.

Old Business

None

Next meeting will be July 10, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned

AC Library Board Meeting
Briceville Library
13 April 2023 @ 1730 EDT

Library Board meeting called to order by Chairman Josh Anderson at 1800 outside the Briceville Library on a lovely spring evening - Seven board members, J. Anderson, chair, T. Mariner, new secretary, Janine Brewer, Carolyn Boswell, Pam Busbee, Theresa Venable, Annette Prewill, and Jess Ann Cole, and all four library directors, Miria Harrison (Clinton), Kimberlee Burge Norris), Kelly Harris (Rocky Top), & Vickie Underwood (Briceville), were in attendance. 37 members of the public were present as the meeting started. A total of 48 individuals were present. Additional members of the public joined in as the meeting progressed.

Introduction by Library Board Chairman Josh Anderson

Approval of the Minutes of March meeting

Report from Sheriff Barker

The two books, *Let's Talk About It* and *Gender Queer*, which were reviewed do not violate Tennessee statutes, but has images and text that would bother many parents and bother him.

An extended question and answer session ensued with Sheriff Barker taking questions and comments on his decision. Only five individuals present indicated they had read the books Sheriff Barker reviewed.

The discussion took up the first hour of the ACLB meeting.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Janine - Two budget moves were made to accommodate higher electric bills in Norris due to city rate changes and a cold winter.

New Business

Appointment of Board Secretary - Tommy Mariner volunteered to become the ACLB secretary.

Pam moved to accept his offer. Janine seconded the nomination. The ACLB voted to approve the nomination. Pam will provide a template to Tommy for the secretary's use.

Flagging titles for minors in circulation systems

Tommy moved to develop a policy for flagging titles or subjects, Janine seconded.

Passed unanimously - Jess Ann, Vicki, and the library directors will serve on the committee and hold a public meeting of their subcommittee 27 April 2023 at the Clinton Library.

Youth Safety Policy Update and/or signage and/or shelf labeling

Current youth safety policy has been developed to provide control of children's access to books based on age, not necessarily reading comprehension.

Parents have control of access via requirements of parents or legal guardians to be present in the library with children under the age of 11. Parents also control access to library cards thus having control over access of books for those under 18. It was noted that looking at

books was less controlled than checking out books. This issue will be part of the discussion for the subcommittee's consideration and development of recommendations.

Miria Webb, Clinton Library Director, noted that the library card records have a remarks section which can be used by parents and legal guardians to limit access to specific book titles and limit access to checking out various types of books by specific book names, authors, the subject of the book, or by number of certain portions of the library under the Dewey Decimal Classification system. It is up to parents to acquaint themselves with the types or numbers of books they want to limit for their children.

Signs can be developed to improve the understanding of library patrons of the locations of the various books on the shelves. Additional funding from the Anderson County Commission would be required if access to restricted areas, new shelving, and/or room partitions were chosen as methods to limit access to books by locations or if the type of shelving and/or display method is chosen as a method of restricting access. Building size and collection size limit the options in some cases. Librarians understand the collection arrangement better than most patrons, therefore visible signage would help patrons to better recognize the book placement and areas which should be restricted for children of various ages.

A subcommittee will meet Thursday, 27 April 2023, to consider various options for collection signage in addition to discussions of the use of book restrictions by other methods. A library board policy will be developed to guide the use of the remarks section to help control access. The results of this subcommittee meeting will be presented at the next ACLB meeting, 11 May in Norris.

Appointment of Tony Devaney for the vacant Rocky Top library board position. The Rocky Top library director would like to talk to the individual prior to the name being approved by the Rocky Top City Council.

Old Business

Book challenge subcommittee report - The subcommittee met with the patron who challenge the book present at the meeting. The subcommittee voted to retain the book, but move it to the young adult section.

Director's Reports were submitted by each library director for their library in the following order, and are attached:

Briceville

Clinton

Norris

Rocky Top

A Regional report was not discussed at the meeting due to the absence of the Regional Library Director, Matthew Jordan.

Tommy Mariner outlined his talks with the Norris City Council at their meeting on 10 April 2023 and his interview on BBTV12, 6 April 2023.

Appearance of Citizens

Comments and questions from the citizens present began approximately 1915 and consumed the last hour of the meeting prior to sprinkles and darkness bringing the meeting to a conclusion.

11 speakers took part in the public comments at the Briceville meeting. 7 were in favor of restricting access or removing a number of books which they found disturbing as to content regarding sexual or gender orientation. 4 were in favor of keeping a wide variety of subjects in the public library.

Jay Yeager offered to provide a legal and common sense compromise based on his understanding of the law and community standards ["Miller test" - Miller v. California, 413 U.S. 15 (1973)] for book selection and collection arrangement to the board for consideration. The presence of a number of the challenged books on the Tennessee READS web site listings, controlled by the state librarians under the Tennessee Secretary of State, was discussed as a portion of the guidance which may come from the Tennessee state government as the issue continues to be discussed at the county, state and national levels. Jay will provide his understanding to the subcommittee for consideration at the meeting on 27 Apr 2023.

Two Anderson County Commissioners, Anthony Allen of Oak Ridge and Shain Vowell of Briceville, spoke concerning their concerns about restrictions of the library collections that they felt are warranted. As one of the last three speakers, Commissioner Vowell noted he had only had two residents of District 4, his district, that had expressed support of the liberal development of library collections, one of whom was a school teacher. A large unspecified number of District 4 residents had expressed their concern about the presence of the challenged books in their library to Commissioner Vowell.

The two speakers after Commissioner Vowell noted they were in favor of the library board's actions even if their political party might be in the minority in Anderson County.

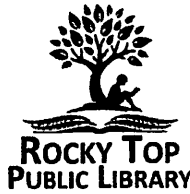
In response to the statement that library board supporters might be in the minority, Tommy Mariner noted that he had listened to voices from across Anderson County at public meetings over the last four months. Tommy noted that of the 261 who attended the Library Forum in Clinton on 13 March 2023, 69 spoke at the three hour meeting (3 minutes each). 63.77% by his count favored the actions of the ACLB and librarians in their selections of the books in the AC public libraries' collections, and favored retention of the challenged books. Tommy noted a 2 hour 51 minute video of the meeting is on YouTube which individuals can watch if they want to review for themselves the breakdown of those opposing the challenged books versus those supporting the librarians actions to date.

Jess Ann Cole challenged whether the speakers had actually been representative of the Anderson County public.

ACLB Chairman Josh Anderson said his review of addresses indicated that the speakers at that meeting were from across the county, generally representing the population spread with the majority of county residents being in the cities of Oak Ridge and Clinton.

Announcement / Next Meeting:

Chairman Anderson made announcement that the next scheduled meeting would be held on the 11 May @ 1730 in Norris. The Norris Lions Club Pavilion has been reserved as the site of this meeting, weather permitting.



Director's Report
April 2023

Programming & Circulation

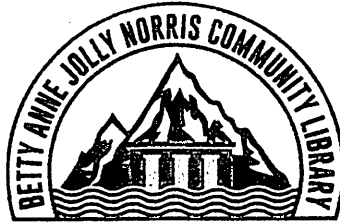
- We added 18 new library cards in March
- Our traffic went up by 500 people from February to March
- Our Summer Reading Programming Calendar is complete
- The Rocky Top Chamber Coffee that we hosted in March drew lots of people into the library and we were able to honor Norma Day's service with a plaque dedication
- The Rocky Top Arbor Day program that we hosted was a huge success and we were able to bring Lake City Elementary students and teachers into the library and show them what we have to offer!

Operations

- I just completed my last book orders with third quarter money. I have added lots of new adult fiction, along with new kids books and updated non-fiction.
- I completed and submitted the monthly quarterly notebook
- I spoke with ECF and they have received my reimbursement documents and now I'm just waiting for a deposit.
- I have submitted a budget amendment for a transfer because my LSTA reimbursement wasn't for the full amount I expected for my Faronics renewal.
- Thank you to County Commissioner Tim Isbel for donating outside lights for the library. And thank you to the city of Rocky Top for getting them up so quickly. We will feel so much safer when leaving in the dark.

Outreach

- I have begun reading to Summit View Nursing Home on Tuesdays and have had lots of positive response and participation.



Norris Community Library Board Report- 04/13/2023

Programs

- ❑ Our Easter Egg hunt went well. The event was moved inside because of rain and the wet grass. We hid eggs around the library and had a storytime prior to the hunt.
- ❑ Around the World Book Club meeting is on 4/20/23 at 5:00pm. Participants will read books set in or by authors from the UK.
- ❑ Our Summer Reading programs dates have been decided. Registration will begin May 22nd, Kickoff is June 3rd, and Finale is July 22nd.

Library Operations

- ❑ We have been asked to participate in the upcoming 75th birthday celebrations for Norris. We are collecting information about Norris Library's history from 1999 to present to be part of a book produced by the Norris Historical Society.
- ❑ We've had some changes in our NORVAT program. Kimberlee met with NORVAT drivers to discuss bringing in more drivers and potentially advertising the service as a whole in the Norris Bulletin.
- ❑ An application was submitted for the TOP grant on April 4th. We hope to purchase some wireless access points with the funds.
- ❑ Kimberlee and Kelsie will be at the TNLA Conference April 11th-13th.

Training

- ❑ Kimberlee attended the Southeast Collaborative Library Conference on 3/14/2023 and a CRRL In-service on Building Better Collections on 03/16/2023

Briceville Public Library



April 2023

March 9 – April 12
Patron Visits – 191
Story time - 52

Library Programs

Homeschool group had a great time with an Egg Stacking Challenge, Jellybean math, egg decorating and much more. Thanks to a generous patron for purchasing the things for this program.

We were able to donate some used children's books to the FMC clinic and magazines for their lobby and a book box one of the free clinic locations.

I've put together a quick access binder for Brandy or anyone that might ever need to work the circulation desk. The binder includes policies, book challenge forms, weather related actions to take, and more.

We have board games and puzzles to donate if any other libraries are in need.

Library Operations

On 4.3.23, our library neighbor came to me with roof tiles. During a storm over that weekend the roof was damaged. Maintenance was called and they came out and fixed it on the 5th.

Our 4th security camera was installed on 4.6.23. This camera overlooks the heat & air unit. This led to the discovery that the fan blades and motor have been damaged. Maintenance came out on the 10th and informed me that parts will need to be ordered. This could take a few days to a few weeks.

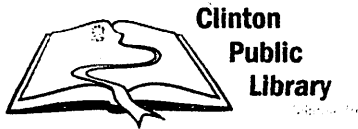
The TOP Grant application was completed and turned in on time. The matching amount required will be \$54.50.

Myself along with the other librarians met with Commissioner Tyler Mayes at the Clinton library, April 5th to discuss the book banning issues.

Training

Daphne – “Community Engagement: Serving Diverse Communities Where They Are”, **Webjunction**.

Brandy – “Failing in the right direction”, **Webjunction**



Library Board Report April 2023

Programs

- See our monthly programs attached.
- We're celebrating National Poetry Month at the library. We've already had some poetry themed programs this month for our younger patrons and we're geared up to do artistic black out poems with our adult art afternoon and discuss books of poetry and novels in verse with our adult book club.
- We'll be holding a food for fines drive as part of National Library Week at the end of the month. Each canned or non-perishable food item will count for \$2 off of library fines. All the food will be donated to a local food bank at the end of that drive.
- We're going to be having orientations for our teen volunteers for summer reading next month.

Library Operations

- We are currently hired a new page, Caroline Villarreal . Caroline is working on getting her Master's in Information Science at UT and is excited to work with us.
- .We've had an issue with an order placed for our grant. The vendor shipped us five laptops instead of five desktops. They are currently trying to resolve that issue.
- The whole state has been having issues with the TWRA boating exams because they've been getting caught in the DNS filters. In order to resolve that, Gina, the state tech, set up our third circulation computer to work around that and make a dedicated boating certification station.
- We've decided to switch to counting hours read instead of number of books read this summer.
- The library should be launching a Kanopy subscription for our patrons in the next week.

Training

- Most of my staff got training from the Southeast Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Regional Center (ROTA-RC) on their Opioid Toolkit on Tuesday. Myself and the other two staff members will be watching the recording of that training shortly.
- I attended the Building Better Collections workshop at the region last month.