

Martinsburg-Berkeley County Public Library Commission
Martinsburg Berkeley County Public Library
March Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2024

Karen Greenfield, Chair, called the regular meeting of the Martinsburg Berkeley County Library Commission to order at 5:10 PM in the Martinsburg Library.

Attendees:

Voting Members: Karen Greenfield, Chair; Ian Gingold, Treasurer; Lakyn Ausherman, Secretary; Robert Mahaffey, Member Absent: Sara Douglass, Vice Chair

Non-voting Members: Gretchen Fry, MBCPL Director; Lynn Walker, Finance and Human Resource Manager

Guests: H.D. Boyd; County Commission Liaison

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the February 22, 2024 meeting were approved on a Mahaffey/Gingold motion by unanimous voice vote.

Public comments:

None.

Financial Report:

The Financial Report ending February 29, 2024 presented by Lynn Walker, Finance and Human Resource Manager, was accepted, pending audit, on a Gingold/Mahaffey motion by unanimous voice vote.

Director's Report:

The Director's Report was presented by Gretchen Fry and will be included in the minutes.

Unfinished Business:

The Martinsburg HVAC and Electrical Project was discussed. The contractor Boland came to view the Martinsburg Library to begin the process for these projects.

New Business:

The Budget Committee was selected and will be composed of Lynn Walker, Gretchen Fry, Robert Mahaffey, and Ian Gingold.

An Addendum to the BOLAND proposal to replace light fixtures in the Martinsburg Library building was discussed, but no motions were considered as there has been no final quote received yet.

The Gingold/Mahaffey motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous voice vote, and the meeting adjourned at 5:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lakyn Ausherman

Directors Report March 2025

Berkeley County IT and Traf-Sys are installing people counters at all Berkeley County Libraries. Reliable people counters are needed to record accurate data to report to the state and to demonstrate how much the library is used to potential funders. The new system will record data automatically and will be hard wired so we will not have the problem of losing data when the batteries run out.

MBCPL is working to standardize book categories across all branches. Library staff are currently working on dividing Musselman-South Berkeley library's general fiction collection into common public library categories- YA, Mystery, Inspirational, etc.

House Bill 4654 failed to progress in the Senate before the Legislative Session ended. The House attempted to push the 4654 legislation through by inserting the language into Senate Bill 741 during the last week of the session, but the Senate did not consider SB741 before the end of session.

Berkeley County denied the library's request for a one-time additional \$151,000 this fiscal year for the Martinsburg Library's HVAC project. This request was in addition to the money the county collects on the library's behalf in accordance with the special law, which the library uses to operate. I will request the funding again next fiscal year. I have not heard back from the city regarding our request for an additional \$151,000 for the Martinsburg HVAC project.

I applied for the second round of grant funding from the State Library Facilities fund on March 25th. I am also in the process of resubmitting our request for Congressionally Directed spending to Manchin's office, the deadline was extended to April 9th. I sent the library's HVAC project information to Region 9 in hopes that they have some leads on grants.

Upcoming Events:

April 6th- 200 people have preregistered for an author discussion and book signing event at the Martinsburg Library. Leadership Berkeley, Four Seasons Books, and library staff are coordinating the event. Jennifer Armentrout and John Gilstrap will be the featured authors.