

Board members in **Attendance** were Christian Mash, Tina Buckel, Alison Rudy-Sweitzer, Karen Malecki, and Clint Bradley. Staff members present were Thomas Vose, Library Director; Nicole McCullough, Executive Assistant; and Maya Glassman, Accident Branch Manager.

Christian called the **Meeting to Order** at 4:05 pm.

The Trustees reviewed the **Meeting Minutes** from the June 12 meeting. Karen moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Alison. The motion passed unanimously.

The Trustees reviewed the **Financial Statements** for the period ending June 2025. Thomas mentioned that we received the Notice of Grant Award (NOGA) for next year's state funding. He also noted that due to a missed email, our county-funding request was received late but is now on its way. With no questions or discussion, Karen moved to accept the statements, seconded by Alison. The motion passed unanimously, and the statements were filed.

The **Director's Report** was reviewed. The Director's Report highlighted an active and productive month for the library system, with a strong focus on community engagement and successful programming. Thomas led the report, detailing his community outreach efforts. He attended the GOBA Kick Off to Summer event, where he was able to promote the Summer Reading Club (SRC) to 64 attendees. He also represented the library at a Historical Society reception, an event that highlighted their collaboration on a Smithsonian spark grant exhibit. Thomas traveled to Philadelphia for the ALA Conference where he brought back exciting new ideas for future programs and again lead the conference's trivia championship. Nicole represented the library at the Western Maryland Literacy Chapter, a group that works to coordinate literacy activities across the three western counties. Thomas also shared an update on the new fine-free system, noting that its implementation has been going smoothly. A major point of pride for the system was the recent tour by State Librarian Morgan Miller, who visited all five libraries. She was particularly impressed by the Oakland branch, which she saw during a bustling SRC event filled with families. She commented on the great work being done in Garrett County and expressed interest in what state-level resources could be of use to the system. Branch reports were equally positive, with all locations reporting a high volume of successful programs and activities. They are all busy with upcoming SRC events. Maya from the Accident branch shared some exciting news, including a new teen volunteer who is assisting with creative projects and adding artistic flair to the windows and bookends. The branch's "Friendship Rocks" activity, which kicked off the SRC, was a hit, and the decorated rocks now adorn the front garden. The monthly "passive question" series continues to engage patrons, with last month's question receiving 71 responses. The most popular rainy-day activity? Reading a book. Maya's outreach efforts at Cherry Hill Assisted Living and the Deep Creek Farmers Market also proved successful, resulting in eight new library cards last month.

Old Business was discussed:

- *Planned Giving Committee*- The Planned Giving Committee reported that they did not have any additional updates since their last meeting with the Friends. They advised that they would meet with Cherie Krug on August 11, 2025, at 10 a.m. at the main library.
- *Friendsville Updates*- Thomas provided an update on the Friendsville construction project, noting that construction is progressing with two key developments. First, the architect advised that revamping the parking lot and street would significantly delay the construction schedule. Thomas communicated this to the town, and they agreed to revisit the parking situation after the building is completed. Second, a major holdup regarding additional digging and drainage was resolved after Bruce from the county re-evaluated the plan and provided his approval to the inspector. With these issues addressed, the most updated completion date is December 24, 2025.
- *Roof Bids*- Thomas reviewed the two roof replacement bids received from the Bid Opening on June 27, 2025. The first bid was a lump sum of \$136,544 from Construction Insight, LLC. The second was from Vertex Roofing and Contractors for \$169,650. Thomas confirmed that the cash for this project would come from WMRL Grant funds.

Based on the bids, the recommendation was to accept the lower bid from Construction Insight, LLC. A motion to accept the bid was made by Tina, seconded by Karen, and passed unanimously.

- *Grantsville Electrical Work*- Thomas reported a quote has been received for the electrical repair work regarding the unusual burning smell coming from the Grantsville vestibule. The quote, provided by Jeff Miller, is for \$2,550, which includes a \$75 service charge. Because this amount exceeds the threshold requiring Board approval and additional quotes, the item has been tabled until the next meeting.

New Business was discussed:

- *Policy #202- Use of Materials*- When reviewing policy #202 to reflect the recent decision to go fine free, Thomas advised that a critical line was mistakenly deleted. The line, which reads “\$6.00 or more due on patron’s library account,” needs to be reinserted. A motion to approve this policy change was made by Clint, seconded by Tina, and passed unanimously.

Other Business was discussed:

- *Oakland AC Unit* – A report was given on the air conditioner in the server room, which is currently malfunctioning. Rush Services inspected the unit and determined that it needs to be replaced. They provided a quote for \$4,500, which exceeds the amount allotted for expenses without Board approval and additional bids. As a result, the item has been tabled until the next meeting to allow time for additional quotes to be obtained.
- *Patron*- Thomas advised the Board that an incident involving a patron at the Accident library resulted in the police being called and a yearlong ban from the system. The patron had additional disruptive instances at both the Oakland and Grantsville library branches.
- *Thank you*- The Board received a note of appreciation from Anna Skeweris, expressing gratitude for the approved salary increases for the fiscal year and acknowledging the Board members’ time and volunteer service.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on August 14, 2025 at 4:00pm at the Oakland Branch.

Tina made a motion to **Adjourn the Regular Meeting** at 4:58pm, seconded by Clint. The motion carried.

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Nicole McCullough.