

July 25, 2019 – Work Session

The Swain County Board of Commissioners held a work session on July 25, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Bushyhead, Vice-Chair Burns, Commissioner Parton, Commissioner Parsons and Commissioner Seagle.

Joe “Gunner” Vasquez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Bushyhead called the work session to order.

Items for Discussion:

Closed Session: Commissioner Parsons made a motion to go into closed session as called for under NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) Attorney/Client Privileges. Vice-Chair Burns seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

Vice-Chair Burns made a motion to adjourn the closed session. Commissioner Seagle seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

Chairman Bushyhead relayed the decision for the attorney to continue to do what he’s doing on this case.

Department Reports:

-Board of Elections – Joan Weeks submitted the following: Swain County Board of Elections
TO: Swain County Commissioners FROM: Joan Weeks, Director RE: Dept. Head Report
DATE: July 25, 2019

1. Municipal Election filing closed July 19, 2019 at noon. Tom Sutton filed for Mayor. Chad Smith and Heidi Woodard filed for Alderman.
2. Numbered Memo 2019-3.
3. Joan Weeks and Judy Allman will attend State training in Cary on July 28-31
4. Swain County Board of Elections next meeting August 22, 2019 at 5:00p.m.
5. Hon. Marvin P Pope, Superior Court Judge Judgment.

-DSS: Sheila Sutton presented the Swain County Statistics for Social Services for January 1, 2019 thru June 30, 2019. Ms. Sutton also gave an update on NC FAST System, Community Alternatives Program/Disabled Adults, Medicaid Transformation, NC Medicaid Facts, NC Enrollment Broker Contacts, Health Plan Overviews, NEMT Vendors and Beneficiary Supports. Vice-Chair Burns made a motion to accept this report as submitted. Commissioner Seagle seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

-Marianna Black Library: Jeff Delfield reported the following:
Department Head Report Marianna Black Library Submitted by Jeffrey Delfield, Swain County Librarian July 25, 2019

Personnel

Library Assistant II Technical Services & Youth Services: with over 23 years of service to the Marianna Black Library, Faye Bumgamer retired on May 15, 2019. Mindy Ledford, who has been Library Assistant Tl (Youth Services) for the past three years, made the lateral move to Technical Services.

Kan Read was hired on as the new Youth Services Library Assistant II. Her first day was June 16, 2019 and in the past month she has already proven to be a great asset to the library, with summer being our busiest season, she has hit the ground running.

Community Development - EDUCATION Activities

Swain County: Joining Hands and Hearts Pathways to Literacy for all Children. What started as Congregations4Children (C4C), Mindy Ledford is on the Guiding Team, which will lead the entire group through the next steps. This Committee will decide how to help families as a whole in order to improve literacy. The guiding teams decide which steps to take, how to achieve goals, setting goals, etc. The public library, as a resource and provider of pre-literacy skills to area children, is a key component for this group to reach its goals.

MakerTools at Swain Schools

- STEAM Night - On April 4th, the library's new MakerTools were demonstrated and used as part of the Swain Schools' STEAM Night. B-Bots (robotics), Magnatiles (builder tools), and

Bloxils were on hand with approximately 90 students and parents trying out the library's new MakerTools.

Proctoring Services - Online or long distance students can take exams remotely and have them administered by library staff. Though not a new service, the library has recently started charging \$10 per exam for this service.

Mountain Discover Charter School Early Literacy Reading Program

Throughout the school year, the library partners with MDCS by providing kindergarten teachers early literacy reading programs twice per month on Wednesday mornings. This program offers pre-literacy skill lessons and crafts associated with popular children's books.

Student Access Project

Fontana Regional Library has partnered with Jackson, Macon, and Swain County Schools to allow students to access library print and electronic resources using their school ID, without needing to visit their local library to set up an account. Student ID accounts allow students to borrow e-resources and access library databases. Students can also borrow up to 10 print or audio books. The student account is free. There are no overdue fines for student accounts, but students are responsible for any fees on lost or damaged books.

Mountain Discovery Charter School students have been included in the program.

2,185 Swain County students can now use their student ID, aka "lunch number" to check out items or use electronic services from the library.

Community Development - EMPLOYMENT/ECONOMY Activities

Poverty Training

Sponsored by the State Library, "Forward Together Workshop" in Winston-Salem - an immersive three day seminar that brought together library staff and community partners from around the state to discuss poverty, its impact on communities, and strategies for assisting those in need. Paul Toney, of the Restoration House, was the Swain partner. All attendees participated in poverty simulation activity and empathy training. February 27-March 1, 2019.

NCWorks Job Fair-

In a collaborative effort with NCWorks of Swain County, the library hosted a Job Fair on April 4th. from 10:00-5:00 PM. Eight employers, including The Great Smoky Mountains Railroad, Ingles, The Fryemont Inn, and Harrahs Casino were on hand and ready to hire. Over 40 members of the public, including a busload of high school seniors, arrived ready to fill out applications and learn more about the various employment opportunities in the area. NCWorks and the library were especially pleased that two job seekers were hired on the spot.

First Friday Employee Assistance

On the first Friday of each month from 1:30 - 4:00pm, Leslynn Jones, a Career Advisor from the Swain County NCWorks Career Center has been at the library to assist job seekers with their job search efforts. She has been available to assist in filling out job applications, creating professional resumes, and preparing for interviews will be provided.

Community Development - Connectivity Activities

Swain County Broadband Committee - John Tyndall, IT Officer for Fontana Regional Library, has joined the Swain committee.

Broadband Forum - The library hosted a forum to share information regarding regional broadband concerns, on April 22nd, at 3:30pm. With a panel of 7 including those from state government, educational outlets, regional committees, and service providers, approximately 35 members of the community attended. After brief introductions and information sharing by all panel members, a lively discussion ensued.

Community Development - HEALTH Activities

Heart Health Event: Participated in the 3rd Annual Heart Health Event at the Swain County Health Department on February 1st, by displaying "Heart Healthy" books for those in

attendance to browse and/or check out. The 25 books displayed were selected by Trish Hipgrave for the Marianna Black Library in 2017 and 2018 as part of a partnership to celebrate National Nutrition Month in those years. With 80 people from the community in attendance, we were pleased to circulate 7 of the displayed books to the community and sign up one person for a new library card.

National Nutrition Month

In a partnership with the Swain County Health Department Public Health Educator, Trish Hipgrave and two WCU interns made recommendations for collection development based on science based medicine, current trends in nutrition, created posters, brochures, folders and coloring pages. All these items, including 15 new books, were displayed in March for National Nutritional Health Month.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Our first blood drive, in partnership with the American Red Cross, was very successful on April 12th from 10am — 2pm. With 21 pints of blood collected, two more drives have been scheduled (July and October), to build on the success of the first.

Community Involvement

Mindy Ledford continues to be a member of the Coalition for a Drug Free Swain County, and actively participates in meetings and the planning for events related to tobacco, drug and alcohol prevention in Swain.

Jeff Delfield continues to be an active member of the Swain Broadband Planning Committee, and has continued in his role of recording secretary.

Jeff Delfield attends Swain Community Resources (started by Swain DSS) meetings each quarter.

Facilities and Operations

Notary Service - Beginning in August. Mindy Ledford became a notary public on behalf of the library. The service is free and available whenever Mindy is in the building. Because of her limited time, appointments are recommended.

AED - The library used grant funds to purchase a new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) this year. All staff received AED training from SOLO-Southeast and Swain Emergency Services was informed that the device is on premises.

CPR Training - All staff received CPR training from Solo-Southeast, with two-year certifications earned by all staff last October. This September, we have scheduled SOLO-SE to return for First Aid training.

Programming

Author Programs

Mary Lucky, local author, discussed her two new books, "Horns the Horrible Worm" a children's story about health, and "Come Walk with Me," a poetry book reflecting on childhood memories.

Dusk Weaver, who has played music at the library for many years, presented his new children's book just in time for Christmas, Mr. Weaver presents his new book, "Bill Willy the WikTon December 5th.

Planetarium Shows

Presented to the public. These shows were so in demand that we had to make them a ticketed event (tickets were free). Four shows presented on March 28th and three shows on June 27th.

Summer Learning: This year's theme is "4iA Universe of Stories" and programs have included:

- To the Moon, On to Mars - Smoky Mountain STEM Collaborative at SCC provided 4 programs to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Moon Landing. June 6, June 20, July 11th and July 18th

- Apen Black (touring singer/songwriter) provided a musical program called "To the Moon & Beyond" with songs about our quest for exploration and dancing. June 18th
- Planetarium shows were presented on June 27 at 11am, 12pm and 2pm.
- Snakes of the Blue Ridge - Presented by the Highlands Biological Station, area children learned about the natural history and biology of snakes found in the Southern Appalachians. The presenter also dispelled snake myths and misconceptions and had a snake on hand for children to see and touch. June 28 .
- "Run, Slither and Swim," with the WNC Nature Center is coming on July 26th.

This year we have 118 children signed up, will have number of minutes read in August (last year over 12,000 minutes read by area children).

Summer Music Series has been successful so far this year. Upcoming programs include Somebody's Child on August 9th, Frank and Allie Lee on August 22nd and Grammy Award-Winner Bill Mize on August 29th.

Libraries on Tap - A new series of programs in which libraries from across the Fontana Regional Library system partner with breweries within the FRL coverage area to create entertaining and educational activities for the community. Home Brewing 101, was presented by Nanatahala Brewing's master brewer, Tom Walsh on October 16th. The History of Beer, on November 8 , was presented by Jeffery Edel of Mountain Layers Brewing.

The 2019 events are currently being planned with regional craft breweries.

On Going Programs

Morning Storytimes: Every Wednesday morning at 10:30 AM, Miss Mindy reads a story to and prepares a craft for area preschoolers.

Afternoon Movies: Every Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 PM, the library presents family movies - usually by theme. Free popcorn is provided by the Friends of the Marianna Black Library.

- LEGO Club - Each 4th Thursday of the month. Library provides Legos and a theme, area children provide their imaginations and creativity!

Community Music Jam: The library has been offering this successful program for 11 years. Every 1st and 3rd Thursday evening, from 6:00 through 7:30 PM, anyone with a guitar, banjo, mandolin, fiddle (anything unplugged) is encouraged to come to the library to jam year round.

New Services

MakersTools Grant - with Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant funds - the library has received many new pieces of equipment to provide new "Maker" services to the community.

- "Memory Lab" - Analog-to-Digital Conversion Station

- Convert VHS to DVD

- Convert Audio Cassette to CD

- Convert 33 1/3 or 45*s to CD

- Convert slides or negatives to a digital file.

- 3D Printer

- STEM Building Tools- MagnaTiles, K'Nex,

- Basic Robotics for children and teens

- Sewing Machine and Serger that Circulate

- Green Screen and Video software to create faraway scenes

Traditional Resource Statistics (July'18-June 19)

- 39,022 people came to the library

- 28,210 items were checked out

- 8,034 people have active library cards in Swain

- 2,511 people attended 167 programs

- 8,011 people used our public computers, laptops and tablets

- 22,052 people "Accepted" will use page

Friends of the Marianna Black Library

- Book store still very busy with sales slightly above average this year.
- Contribution to library's general fund. Last year the FoMBL \$12,000 to the library for general operations.
- Contributions to library programs and the Reading Rover have also be received.
- Annual Meeting and Booksale was September 14-15. Local author Margaret Lackey talked about her paranormal/mysteries and her writing process.
- Upcoming Annual Meeting will be Friday, September 20th. Western Carolina University's Beverly Collins will talk about leaf color and hopefully by that time will have a prediction for the fall.

New Library Progress

The Planning Committee has also been working very hard to bring new solutions to this board.

- Hired a strategic planning consultant specializing in fundraising and strategic planning for non-profits. Beginning in September, Wilson Sims, of Sims and Steele Consulting, has been guiding the committee through the process of a feasibility study.
 - Two presentations of the needs for a new library on October 1st and 4th given to community members.
 - Sims interviewing those who attended each meeting, gathering input for the feasibility study.
 - 10 more Information Sharing and Community Input Gatherings were scheduled in March and April. Approximately 100 members of the community completed a survey as part of the feasibility study.
 - Feasibility Study has been completed and Wilson Sims will be scheduled to present it to the Swain County Commissioners this late summer/early fall.
- Vice-Chair Burns made a motion to accept this report as given. Commissioner Parsons seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

The Giving Spoon's Request for Funds: Kathleen gave an update and requested \$500.00. Vice-Chair Burns made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Seagle seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

Rec. Park Parking Lot: The Board discussed the need for the parking lot at the Morgan Pavilion needs to be repaired. The estimated cost to redo the asphalt would be around \$24,960, per HMC Paving and for concrete would be an estimated \$36,000 but the concrete would last longer.

Detention Officers Comp. Time Program: The Board discussed this issue hoping to eliminate the comp time liability by backing out of the current 7K Program and reverting back to a 40 hour work week.

TDA Resolution: The Board discussed an amendment to the 2007 resolution. This item will be on the next regular session agenda for consideration.

County Managers Report: Kevin King gave an update on HB156 noting it will be in effect October 1, 2019.

Commissioners Items

Vice-Chair Burns – The Broadband Committee is almost ready to submit an application for an ARC grant, he also met with the library committee and reported they're moving forward with fundraising, etc.

Commissioner Seagle – Attended Community Resource Meeting, SC Flood Plan is being redone, talked to Kevin Mitchell with DWQ regarding the project in Cullowhee.

Commissioner Parton – None

Chairman Bushyhead – Met with the GSMNP Superintendent and addressed some items of concern regarding the tunnel, etc.

Public Comments: None

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss at this time, Vice-Chair Burns made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Parsons seconded the motion. A vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindi C. Woodard,
Clerk to the Board
Swain County Commissioners

Ben Bushyhead,
Chairman
Swain County Commissioners