

## **Kent County Public Library Board of Trustees**

### **Finance Committee**

Minutes of the March 18, 2025 Meeting

Present: John Murphy, Treasurer; Rachel Durso, Trustee; Robert Bell, Executive Director; Chris Walmsley, Director of Office Administration

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and adopted without change.

#### **ESRL FY25 Funding Update**

Mr. Bell informed the committee members that there had been an emergency meeting of the Eastern Shore Regional Library (ESRL) directors related to the Hoopla service. Mr. Bell continued that the Director of ESRL had explained that the funding for Hoopla had been fully expended for the current fiscal year and that ESRL was requesting some of the grant funds for Fiscal Year 2025 to be returned to pay for Hoopla. Mr. Bell informed the committee that the Library would be paying \$5,300 based on the county wide use of Hoopla.

Mr. Bell noted that due to this, ESRL may not continue Hoopla for the next fiscal year due to the per use pay model and rising costs. Mr. Bell shared that if Hoopla was discontinued, the funds would be used to make similar services available to patrons, and that decisions related to the services for the next fiscal year would be made prior to June.

Mr. Murphy asked if there was a particular reason that the costs for Hoopla were higher than expected. Mr. Bell noted that use had increased significantly, and with the pay-per-use model of Hoopla, that costs were significantly higher.

Ms. Durso asked if ESRL had investigated different alternatives to reduce the cost of the service. Mr. Bell said that even with adjustments, projections put the service at exceeding costs in the current fiscal year. Mr. Bell stated that ESRL would not cancel hoopla unless they were able to find a roughly comparable service. Mr. Bell continued that other organizations were encountering similar problems with Hoopla costs, giving weight to their concerns.

#### **Fiscal Year 2025 Grants Update**

##### **Hedgelawn Foundation Grant**

Mr. Bell informed the committee that he and the Director of Branch Services had identified shelving to purchase for the Rock Hall facility which totaled \$4,300 of the \$4,500 award.

## Branch Updates

Mr. Bell noted that he was investigating facade grants for Rock Hall and North County locations to update the signs. Mr. Bell shared that there were some challenges for a sign in Rock Hall due to the road being a state road.

## Proposal to Improve the Management of Reserve Funds

Mr. Murphy noted that the library had approximately \$250,000 in reserve funds which were receiving an extremely low interest rate as savings accounts. Mr. Murphy continued that the library could use Certificates of Deposit with a four month period and rotate funds to increase the return on the reserve funds. Mr. Murphy shared that he had discussed with the Kent County senior accountant related to management of the funds, who had stated that the county was ok with using Certificats of Deposit. Mr. Murphy stated that the library could potentially receive \$8,000 in additional revenue.

Ms. Durso reviewed the recent executive order to defund the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and shared that there were concerns related to grant funding and how the executive order would directly impact the library. Ms. Durso noted that revising the management of these funds to increase revenue could potentially address some of the anticipated reduction in revenue from the federal government.

The committee discussed the possibility of working with the Foundation for the Kent County Public Library to create an endowed fund to support the library, and the potential impacts of the reduction in funding from the IMLS.

No further business was brought before the committee.

The meeting was adjourned unanimously at 4:31 pm.