



PICKENS COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
6:00 PM January 18, 2024
Hampton Memorial Library, Easley

IN ATTENDANCE - BOARD: Ms. Susan Childers, Chair
Ms. Karen Culley, Secretary
Ms. Lori Osborn
Mr. Danny Parton
Mr. Alfred Wheeler
Ms. Alesa Pinkerton

EX OFFICIO: Ms. Stephanie Howard, Library Director
STAFF: Stacey Roberson, Executive Assistant

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, a notice of the meeting was sent to newspapers and a copy of the Board Agenda was sent to the Presidents of all Friends Groups.

Ms. Childers called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Minutes from the November 16th meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

1. Johnnelle Raines: Ms. Raines addressed the Board regarding Book Reconsideration.
2. Kathleen Campbell: Ms. Campbell addressed the Board regarding the Book Reconsideration.
3. Mark Kilburn: Mr. Kilburn addressed the Board regarding the Library Programming Policy.
4. Rachel Cox: Ms. Cox addressed the Board regarding support for the library, staff, and Board.
5. Debi Sole: Ms. Sole addressed the Board regarding the Library Bill of Rights.
6. Beverly Hawkins: Ms. Hawkins addressed the Board regarding Book Reconsideration.
7. Brittany Fowler: Ms. Fowler addressed the Board regarding support for the library and programs and services offered by the library system.
8. Juliet Penna: Ms. Penna addressed the Board regarding the Freedom to Read.
9. Debbie Smith: Ms. Smith addressed the Board regarding the SC Code of Laws and Book Reconsideration.
10. Teresa Efant: Ms. Efant addressed the Board regarding the Freedom to Read.
11. Gigi Greenberger: Ms. Greenberger addressed the Board regarding Book Reconsideration.
12. Reba Kruse: Ms. Kruse addressed the Board regarding the Freedom to Read.
13. Carlie Brooks: Ms. Brooks addressed the Board regarding support for the library and programs offered.

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14. Polly Keller: Ms. Keller addressed the Board regarding Book Reconsideration.
15. Denise Davidson: Ms. Davidson addressed the Board regarding Book Reconsideration.
16. Heather Mitchell: Ms. Mitchell addressed the Board regarding Book Reconsideration.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT –

Ms. Howard reported that the Easley branch has Early Voting taking place from January 22-January 27th, January 29th-February 2nd, February 12th-February 17th, and February 20th-February 22nd. The Director also stated that the Easley Library is a polling site for the June statewide primary and the November Presidential Election.

The Director informed the Board that VITA will be utilizing the library branches again this year for Free File, and patrons can call 2-1-1 to schedule an appointment. This will take place from January 22nd-April 15th.

Ms. Howard stated that the Easley branch will host author Brad Taylor on January 26th at 7 pm. It is a free event, and books will be available at the event to buy and will include an opportunity for book signing.

Ms. Howard presented the statistics report and explained that the decreases that occurred were mostly affected by not having early voting in the Fall this year like the year before.

PLANNING AND FINANCE –

Ms. Howard presented the Finance Report for review. She directed the Board members to the building maintenance account on the second page, to show that County Administration has removed all but \$15k from that budget, without any explanation. Ms. Howard updated the Board that all the money in that budget has been used, including going toward the new roof at Pickens and the HVAC expenses at the branches. Any repairs or building maintenance will have to be approved by County Administration. The breakdown of the renovation budget on the last sheet shows what the money has already been used for. Any daily things like pressure washing and maintenance of the helicopter park have to be approved now by County Administration.

The Director reminded the Board members that they are in charge of library money, and she wants them to be aware of how the money is being spent.

FOUNDATION REPORT –

The foundation report was presented for review. Karen Culley suggested that the Board brainstorm ideas at future meetings about how to get the word out for the Foundation and increase the funds for the Foundation. The Director and Susan Childers explained that the Foundation has purchased the landscaping and furniture for the Greggorie Park and will continue to assess how to improve the park. Susan Childers reminded the members about the pledge from Ms. Williams and stated that her estate is currently in probate, but the Foundation should be receiving funds later this year.

NEW BUSINESS –

The Director presented the list of Reconsideration Requests, which lists the books for all of the Reconsideration Forms that have been received. Some books are listed twice because two people have submitted reconsideration forms for the same book.

The Director explained the process for receiving a reconsideration form. Once a patron submits a form, several staff members who are librarians, including the Director, read the book, write a review on the book, and then discuss the book. Once these steps have been completed, the Director makes a determination on whether to remove the book, move the book to a different section, or keep the book where it is. If the patron does not agree with the determination that is made, the patron can then appeal to the board. The Board Members will then review the book, discuss, and then vote on a determination for the book.

The Director has submitted a report with a decision about the book "Drama" to the patron who filed the form, and the patron has appealed the decision to the board. The Director let the board members know that library staff can assist them in obtaining the books on the list if need be, as they will need to review any book that is appealed.

Mr. Alfred Wheeler asked when the book "Drama" would be discussed and voted on. Susan Childers stated that it would be after everyone has read the book and then it can be added to the agenda. Danny Parton motioned to

add the discussion of the book “Drama” to the agenda for the next board meeting. Karen seconded the motion and it was approved. Ms. Howard stated that “Drama” will be the only book that is voted on at the next meeting, but packets for the next 4 books will be distributed at that meeting to inform the Board Members which books will be reviewed and voted on after “Drama”.

OLD BUSINESS –

The Director has asked the State Library about scheduling a meeting for board training, that will be its own meeting instead of adding it into an already scheduled Board Meeting. The State Librarian will be coming to do the training at 6 pm on February 15th. This will not be open to the public and no business will be conducted at this meeting, as it is strictly a training session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION –

Stacey Roberson left the room at 7:18 pm for the Executive Session to take place and she returned at 8:12 pm. Karen Culley, Secretary, took notes during the Executive Session while Stacey Roberson was absent.

DISCUSSION –

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be at 6:00 PM on Thursday, March 21, 2024, in Liberty.

Minutes prepared by Stacey Roberson, Executive Assistant.