



PICKENS COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
6:00 PM July 15th, 2021
Village Branch, Pickens

IN ATTENDANCE - BOARD: Ms. Childers
Ms. Kristen Nebesky Lawson
Ms. Kathleen Campbell
Ms. Karen Culley
Mr. Eddie McCall

EX OFFICIO:
STAFF: Ms. Stephanie Howard, Library Director

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.

In the absence of Mr. Latham, Ms. Childers called the meeting to order at 6:03PM.

Minutes from May 20, 2021, meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Lee Churchfield, Easley Friends of the Library President, attended the meeting and introduced herself.

PRESENTATION –

LS3P presented the final feasibility study for the Expansion Space renovation project.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT –

Ms. Howard reported the archives project is going great. The library is in the process of moving materials from Flicker to Content DM. The new archives assistant is currently checking to make sure that all the previous materials that were archived, were done so correctly. Due to majority of historical documents being spread out over the county in individual collections, PCLS would like to work with the county museums, the historical society, and the Clayton Room at SWU to digitize their collections to make them accessible to everyone and prevent the loss of information in the event of something happening to the original document. The Dacusville satellite library is now a live location where patrons can pick up and drop off their checked-out PCLS materials (including Wi-Fi hotspots). Ms. Howard attended the Downtown Liberty Planning Meeting and spoke about the library and its plans within the community. She has also been in contact with Jim Gregory, who has donated the strip of land between the library and the restaurants on Highway 123. The library hopes to work with the Roads and Bridges department in the Fall to start cleaning up the land (while keeping trees for shade and as a buffer from the

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restaurants) and install bench seating. Visitor and usage statistics are rising and are expected to continue to rise as the library resumes normal functioning in August. The outreach vehicle has been wrapped and will be used at its' first event on Saturday at the Easley Market, and has many more events booked. The state library has sent a bus Wi-Fi device to outfit the Outreach Vehicle so anyone at the events can use the library's Wi-Fi.

PLANNING AND FINANCE -

The current library budget for this year is \$3,659,036.00. The library system currently has \$3,378,837.00 in its reserve fund. During the county budget meeting, Ms. Howard was informed that the library only needed to have 18% - 20% of the budget in the reserve fund. That would leave \$2,659,576.00 which is near the amount needed to complete the Expansion Space Project.

FOUNDATION REPORT –

The foundation report was presented for review.

OLD BUSINESS –

NEW BUSINESS –

The library system will no longer require patrons to add money to their library card accounts in order to pay for copying, printing, and faxing. Patrons will now just pay for their items directly with cash, credit, or debit card. This becomes less of a burden to the patron as well as the library staff. The patrons who have a balance remaining on their cards will be notified that they have 1 year to use the money. This will allow the library to get rid of the server and software that's used to hold all that information. Keeping the software is costly and presents a security risk for the library.

Discussion for moving forward with the expansion space: The general consensus from the board was to move forward with the project.

DISCUSSION –

Fine Free Model – The library proposed the idea of eliminating fines and fees for overdue books. The assistant library director, Cassie Hamilton, presented statistics showing the benefits of moving towards this model. Oconee County, Anderson County and a rapidly growing number of libraries across the state have moved to this model and are finding it to be successful. In 2019 the American Library Association issued a resolution that stated charging overdue fines presents an economic barrier to our communities and urged other libraries to eliminate them. By implementing this Fine Free Model, patrons will no longer be prevented from using the library if they can not afford to pay their late fees. It will also improve customer service and achieve the libraries mission to provide free and equitable access to materials. The amount of money collected from fines and fees is not a reliable source of library funding, it equates to less than 1% of the overall budget. Studies conducted by other libraries show that by eliminating fines, the return time on items has not been affected. Patrons will return the items when they want to, whether there is a fine or not. Studies have also shown that by announcing a fine free policy, library usage will improve because it will bring patrons back into the library who could not afford to pay the fines. Library staff spend money and time trying to collect fines and fee's which could be better spent on doing other things that enhance community services. The library will still be charging for unreturned, damaged items, and newer/high demand collections, such as the Adventure Passes and unconventional items (the Library of Things). All board members voted in favor of moving to the Fine Free Model. The library system intends to make an announcement and begin implementing the changes in September 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04PM.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be at 6:00 PM on Thursday, September 16th, 2021, in Pickens.

Minutes prepared by Rebekah Henson, Executive Assistant.