

ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of July 13, 2021 Meeting

ACCL Boardroom 4:00 p.m.

Chair Russell called the meeting to order at 4:02pm. Trustees in attendance are Ms. Bogue, Ms. Boydstun, Ms. Cullen, Ms. Darnell, Ms. Hunt, Ms. Cox, Ms. Ritter, Chair Russell, Mr. Timmons, Ms. Mize, and Mr. Woods. Absent were Ms. Clarke, Ms. Hall, Mr. Jordan, and Mr. Vernotico. Staff members present were Ms. Bell, Ms. Mayfield, Ms. Plaksin, Ms. Green, Ms. Fike, Ms. Price, Ms. Flanigan, Ms. Shimobi-Obijuru, Mr. Bush, and Ms. Schumman and Ms. Shull.

Announcements:

- Ms. Bell agreed to delay announcements until her Director's Report in order to accommodate the schedule of guests, Soraia Felgenhauer and Lawrence Harris of CCSD.
- Ms. Ritter announced board member Stephanie Hall recently welcomed her first child -- a beautiful baby girl!! Both mom and baby are doing well. Congratulations!!

Public Comment:

Soraia Felgenhauer and Lawrence Harris of CCSD gave comments via Zoom. Mr. Harris is the Head of Community Engagement and Partnerships at CCSD. The point of discussion was building a stronger partnership between CCSD and the Library. Some topics discussed were more effective ways of promoting the Library's services to students and parents of CCSD, and Tutor.com.

Director Bell stated that Tutor.com is a service available to all students with a library card, free of charge. Mr. Harris and Miss Felgenhauer offered to put Tutor.com and other Library offerings in the monthly CCSD newsletter in an effort to communicate Library services more effectively to parents.

Both parties expressed excitement in building a stronger partnership between the Library and CCSD.

Approval of Minutes:

- The Draft Minutes from the April 13, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

Approval of Agenda:

- The Agenda was then adopted and unanimously approved. (Moved by Miss Bogue, Seconded by Mr. Timmons)

Financial Report:

- FY2021 - QTR4 , unanimously approved. (Motedioned by Miss Bogue, Seconded by Miss Cox)

Committee Reports:

- **Foundation**

Ms. Bogue gave the report for the Foundation. She stated that the Foundation is doing well and is currently valued at \$1,569,000.00. The first Foundation meeting will be held at the Library, August 5, 2021, at 12 noon. The Foundation will review bylaws, and discuss fundraising for special projects at the first meeting. Director Bell stated some of the Foundation's short term goals are raising funds for tech and collection development, community enrichment, and creating welcoming and entertaining spaces.

Consultant, David Baker is actively recruiting members.

- **Friends of the Library**

Chair Russell reported that Miss Kalim could not attend today to give the report.

- **Winterville**

Marie Mize gave the report, and stated that Ellen Derwin was elected Vice Chair of the Library Association Board (LAB). She reported that patrons are happy the Library is open and are excited about outdoor storytimes. The Library offers outdoor storytimes during the Marigold Market held on Saturdays. There has been a very positive response from the community. The Library is also performing outreach by having outdoor storytimes at Pittard Park, and twice a month at Avery Place Retirement Home. This has been very well received by the community.

The Winterville section of the Firefly trail will be complete in October.

Director's Report:

News from the State

- Director Bell shared that the State has granted a one-time "supplement" to all State Library reimbursed positions of \$1,000. This was only for State reimbursed staff making \$80,000 or less. This was distributed in the June Checks. (Action Item)

- The “supplement” was given to library staff -- \$1,000 for those who worked through the pandemic. She stated the hiring cutoff date was 4/1/21. By then the worst was over and we were working towards normalcy.

Covid Updates

- Staff will continue to wear masks at work, primarily for their safety. Social distancing signs are still up and hand sanitizing stations are still at all locations.
- The Library teamed up with the Northeast Georgia Department of Public Health to provide space for vaccination clinics. This was done in Athens, Bogart, Madison, and Oglethorpe Counties.

ACCL News

- Director Bell shared that *One Book Athens: One Book Many Stories*, was very successful. The Library held an author event with the two authors AND the author of the elementary school edition, “Stamped: For Kids”. Ms. Bell commented that this was the first time ever that all three authors have been on a panel together at the same time. Over 584 people registered, and 331 attended. Additional programs that involve discussions have been planned through September.
- We continue to update the library website. All Branch Board members should be updated on the website.
- The ACCUG posted a Board position last week. If you know of a good candidate, please let them know to go to the ACCUG site and click on Boards for an application.
- Director Bell thanked Trudi Green and her team for all of their hard work regarding passport distribution. While not the same as FY2020, they are on the rise, which is good news.
- The Library returned to full open hours on May, 17, 2021 and meeting rooms opened to the public for meetings on June 1. Both Resource Centers, Lay Park and East Athens, were opened and resumed regular hours on May 17th and June 6th respectively.
- Director Bell stated that we are switching from Windstream and working with a company called ENA. Branches will receive more than double their internet speeds. She thanked IT Manager, Greg Deal and his team for all the work that went into this change.
- The tool library has been cataloged, and we are insured. We are now ready to start circulating tools as part of our “Shareables: Library of Things” collection.
- Ms. Bell explained that due to Coronavirus and limited staffing, there was money left over this year. She would like to distribute funds as outlined in the July 13 Director’s Report and agreed to a future discussion.
- An increase in security was discussed. Miss Cullen asked if there was a need for security in the morning. Miss Darnell inquired if security issues were mostly related to mental health issues and/or homelessness. Director Bell agreed that security is an important issue and was open to staff comment. Miss Green

commented that most incidents can be handled, however, it's hard to predict when things will escalate. Miss Shimobi-Obijuru agreed.

Communications:

- Ms. Bell introduced Jashondra Flanigan. Miss Flanigan will graduate with her Master's Degree in Human Relations very soon and was hired as an HR Generalist. She will work with Sue Plaksin in HR and handle purchasing for the Library. Jashondra has already proven herself to be a capable and organized part of the team.
- Director Bell announced Eddie Whitlock's retirement. Eddie worked for ACCL for over 11 years and retired June 30th. He will be missed.
- A new organizational chart was presented for review.

New Business:

None

Board Actions:

Unable to ratify action items due to lack of quorum. Mr. Timmons motioned the meeting recess until a vote was taken (seconded by Mr. Woods).

Old Business: none

Meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m. by Chair Russell. (Unanimously approved without opposition)

Next Meeting October 12, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.