

ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of January 11, 2022 Meeting

Via Zoom, 4:00 pm

Chair Russell called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm. Trustees in attendance are Ms. Bogue, Ms. Brickman, Ms. Boydston, Ms. Clarke, Ms. Cullen, Ms. Hall, Mr. Mason, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Mason, Ms. Ritter, Chair Russell, Mr. Vernotico, Mr. Timmons, Ms. Kalim, and Mr. Woods. Absent were Ms. Hunt, and Ms. Cox. Staff members present were Ms. Bell, Ms. Price, Ms. Schuman, Ms. Plaksin, Ms. Shimobi-Obijuru, Ms. Green, Ms. Fike, Ms. Mayfield, Ms. Flanigan, Ms. Eades and Ms. Eades.

Announcements:

- Chair Russell welcomed new Board member Charlene Brickman and announced that Ms. Price will put together notebooks for each Board member. The notebooks will serve as a dedicated place to keep meeting minutes, and other important information.

Public Comment:

None

Approval of Minutes:

- The draft minutes of the October 12, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved with edits. (motioned by Ms. Bogue, seconded by Mr. Jordan)

Approval of Agenda:

- The January 11, 2022 Meeting Agenda was adopted and unanimously approved. (motioned by Ms. Ritter, seconded by Ms. Bogue)

Financial Report:

- Ms. Fike presented the financial report. She reported that expenditures are at 47.10%. Fines and fees are where they should be for the 2nd quarter.
- FY2022-Q2 Financial Report was unanimously accepted. (motioned by Mr. Vernotico, seconded by Ms. Bogue)

Committee Reports:

- Mr. Woods reported on the Ad-Hoc Committee's review of the ACCL Constitution and Bylaws. The committee reviewed each document. The committee had no recommendations for changes. Chair Russell recommended that pronouns are updated

to be inclusive and gender neutral. Mr. Woods and the committee will update the pronouns before the April meeting. New review dates will be recorded.

- **Building/Grounds Committee**

Ms. Russell reported that the East Side User Group meets twice a month virtually. The group visited Forsyth Libraries. Potential firms will visit ACCL on February 9th, and interviews will take place in March.

- **Finance**

Ms. Bogue gave the report. She reported the end of year report from Merrill Lynch as \$1,669,550 (ROR). Ms. Bogue also shared that like Friends of the Library, The Foundation was created to support the Library. They are planning an event in April. The Foundation currently has nine members, and they are currently seeking new members and officers. She also reported that consultant David Baker's contract is up for renewal.

Chair Russell commented that she would like to clarify The Foundation is not the Finance Committee. She stated that Section 3 of the Constitution should include Finance, Personnel, and Foundation.

Director Bell added that we do have a Foundation established in the By Laws and Constitution, but it may say "Endowment".

- **Friends of the Library**

Ms. Kalim gave the report for the Friends. She thanked everyone for helping with the booksale. She was pleased to report that the booksale made \$16,000. The Spring Book Sale will be March 30th - April 2nd.

There is a Cafe au' Libris event coming up, and a Poetry Night is being planned.

- **Winterville**

Mr. Scott gave the report. The Library borrowed the storywalk from Oconee Library and placed it on the Firefly Trail. It was very well received, and the Mayor requested it stay up longer.

Mr. Scott informed the Board that all Winterville Advisory Board seats are filled. The Secretary position is still open, but will be assigned soon.

Holiday In The Square was a huge success.

Director's Report:

Strategic Planning is underway. We received six proposals. Director Bell is reviewing the proposals with Resource Team members, and ARLS BOT members Steve Mason (ACCL), Mike Garner (Oglethorpe), and Fred Lutz (Oconee). She invited more Board members to join the team.

After being postponed due to covid, Ms. Bell was happy to report the Montgomery Bus Trip with CCSD is back on! The group will meet to plan this week.

The PLAY (Public Library Access for Youth) Card is moving forward. Rollout is scheduled for May.

The Jeanette Rankin Foundation would like to use the meeting rooms for their “It’s Time To Talk” Event. Ms. Bell stated that they are willing to pay for the meeting rooms, but our policy states all events held at the Library must be free and open to the public. This event is not free and open to the public. All funds will go to the Jeannette Rankin Scholarship Fund. Director Bell then asked the Board to weigh in.

- Ms. Cullen asked if we could get around the cost issue by charging less or by charging J.R.F. for any public waiting to attend.
- Ms. Brickman asked if a donation could be made to attend. Mr. Woods commented that by doing so, it wouldn't leave it open to the public.
- Chair Russel asked if J.R.F. could purchase a table or two for the public.
- Ms. Bogue expressed concern about “suspending the rules.” Ms. Bell agreed that it could be a slippery slope.
- Mr. Jordan asked if it was likely that the public would show up to the event.
- Ms. Cullen commented that suspending the rule for this event, could set a precedent that is not in our best interest.

Mr. Woods made the motion to not approve the Jeanette Rankin Foundation to use the rooms for the event because it is not in line with our policy. (Motioned by Mr. Woods, seconded by Ms. Cullen. Opposed by Mr. Vernotico) *Action Item*

- Mr. Vernotico stated that the Library should not be in the business of saying “No”.
- Ms. Ritter shared that she has participated in “It’s Time To Talk” for years and it would be nice to give the community a chance to participate. She added it would also be good for the Library.

Mr. Vernotico motioned to amend the previous motion, and tell J.R.F. that they are welcome to use the rooms for the event as long as it is open to the public. (motioned by Mr. Vernotico, seconded by Mr. Woods) *Action Item*

Communications:

None

New Business:

- **Book Action Committee - Request For Reconsideration, Zola DVD**
Ms. Cullen expressed that she thinks the committee needs a new name that is Inclusive of all library materials.
A Madison County Library Patron reported DVD, Zola. The patron said the movie was soft porn and wanted it removed from the shelf, or labeled with a warning. The committee reviewed the DVD and unanimously recommended no withdrawal and no additional labeling. She added that the movie is already rated R, and it received great reviews. The Board voted to accept the recommendation of the Book Action Committee. (motioned by Ms. Cullen, seconded by Ms. Bogue) *(Action Item)*

- Finance Committee - Approval of FY2023 Budget Request
Director Bell presented two budget request options. She informed the Board that the FY2023 Budget was sent to the Finance Committee for review. A three year proposal was planned that would move base pay from \$10 to \$16 per hour over the next 3 years, and attempt to limit wage compression.
 - Ms. Cullen expressed that she thinks 3 years is an easy out. Three years is too long
 - Ms. Hall added that fast food chains are raising their pay, and we should ask for the full amount to stay competitive, but we should also have a back up plan.
 - Ms Cullen suggested that we not show the 3 year plan on the second option.
 - Mr. Vernotico commented that wage compression is an issue. Very little difference in pay between regular staff and leadership staff, could cause morale issues. He added that everyone needs a living wage.
 - Ms. Cullen commented that all BOT members should attend the budget hearing.

The board voted to approve the FY2023 budget request. (motioned by Mr. Vernotico, seconded by Mr. Mason)

Board Actions:

- Approve the Jeanette Rankin Foundation's use of the meeting rooms for "It's Time To Talk" event, as long as it is open to the public. (motioned by Mr. Vernotico, seconded by Mr. Woods) unanimously approved
- Acceptance of the Book Action Committee's recommendation - Request For Reconsideration, Zola DVD (motioned by Ms. Cullen, seconded by Ms. Bogue) unanimously approved
- Approval of FY2023 budget request (motioned by Mr. Vernotico, seconded by Mr. Mason) unanimously approved

Old Business:

None

Meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m. by Chair Russell (moved by Mr. Vernotico, seconded by Mr. Woods) Unanimously approved

Next Meeting April 12, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.