

ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes of April 21, 2022 Meeting
Multi-Purpose Room A, 3:30 pm

Meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Vice Chair Harry Rice. Present were Mr. Campbell, Ms. Frey, Mr. Garner, Mr. Lutz, Mr. Rice, Ms. Russell, Ms. Shoemaker, Mr. Shapiro, Ms. Terrell, and Mr. Woods. Absent were Ms. Norris, and Mr. Timmons. Staff present were Ms. Bell, Ms. Price, Ms. Shimobi-Obijuru, Ms. Mayfield, Ms. Shull, Ms. Schuman, Ms.Green, and Ms. Plaksin.

The Minutes of the January 20, 2022 Board meeting were unanimously approved. (Motedioned by Mr. Campbell, Seconded by Ms. Terrell)

The adoption of the current agenda was unanimously approved. (Motedioned by Mr. Campbell, Seconded by Mr. Shapiro)

Public Comment - None

Recognitions: Van Burns, our Reflective, Sharing, Learning (RSL) Coordinator, has retired as of March 31. Van has done a great job bringing in all sorts of programs and exhibits. We wish him well in his retirement.

Financial Report:

Financial Report FY2022 Q3, prepared by Mamie Fike, Business Manager. Ms. Fike gave the report. She reports revenue at 74.98% , and expenditures at 71%. Financial Report FY2022 Q3 was unanimously approved. (Motedioned by Mr. Campbell, Seconded by Ms. Shoemaker.)

Regional Reports

Athens-Clarke County:

Ms. Russell gave the report. She reports the Spring FOL Book Sale was a success bringing in approximately \$18k.

Capital Outlay gave 2 million for the new East Side Library.

Franklin County:

Ms. Shoemaker gave the report. She reports that the elementary school is moving out of Royston. They will pay attention to see if this move affects patron visits.

Library staff is very pleased with program attendance, and everyone is looking forward to summer reading.

Madison County:

Mr. Rice gave the report. He reports that Aleta Turner was hired as the new Branch Manager and Hannah Wolf was hired as the Youth Librarian. Aleta was featured in an article in the Madison County Journal.

He was happy to report that patron visits are up 16%, library card usage is up 26%, and computer usage is up 15%.

The Thinking Money 4 Kids (TM4k) exhibit has attracted a lot of attention! TM4k is a very interactive exhibit that uses fun games and activities to help children understand the function of money in society. The Chamber was very pleased with the exhibit.

Oconee County:

Mr. Campbell gave the report. He was pleased to report that the City of Bogart used rescue plan funds to purchase computer products.

Wire Park planning continues. They have received the updated drawings.

Materials cost continues to rise, but they are working through it.

Oglethorpe:

Mr. Garner gave the report. He was happy to report an increase in both in-person and self directed programming. The library staff are being incredibly creative.

The library attended the March Madness basketball game. Their attendance was very well received.

A microfiche reader will be purchased in the near future.

Director's Report:

Ms. Bell reported the unfortunate news of the passing of State Librarian Julie Walker's mother. We sent Julie a card and a Peace Lily on behalf of ARLS. Julie sent a wonderful thank you note that Ms. Bell presented to the Board.

ARLS received \$53k in LibTech funding that will be spent by the end of the fiscal year. IT Manager, Greg Deal, worked with all the branch managers to understand their needs. Computers across the region will be updated and switches will be purchased.

Director Bell was pleased to announce that both State houses approved the FY23 budget. MMR remained at 2 million as recommended by the House. Wire Park will receive \$200,000.

National Library Week was April 3rd - 9th. This year's theme was "Connect with your Library". It promotes the idea that libraries connect us to technology through broadband access, computers, and other resources.

April 5th was National Library Workers Day. Friends from across the region celebrated staff with appreciation goodies. Ms. Bell extended her sincere thanks to all the Friends.

Ms. Bell was excited to report that the PLAY Card will go live for all ACC public schools on May 9th. The PLAY Card is "fines free". Oconee County Branches have already instituted the PLAY card with wonderful results.

Valerie Bell, Toby Mayfield, Sue Plaksin, and Rita Shoemaker attended Library Legislative day on March 10th. They met with four representatives and gave out gift bags filled with promotional library materials and a 3D printed UGA football jersey celebrating the Dawgs' National Championship win.

Strategic Planning is moving along. The Regional Board will meet with Fast Forward Libraries on 5/26. Director Bell presented a copy of the Strategic Planning timeline to the Board.

Kaptiv8 has started on our new website. Each county will have their own site. Soon, they will have samples of what the new site looks like.

Materials for the hearing loop are on order. Our vendor is suffering from supply issues as the rest of the country, but believes all materials will be in some time in September.

Committee Reports:

Policy - none

Personnel - none

Constitution & By-Laws - none

Old Business:

none

New Business:

- Pass temporary budget FY23 based FY22.
(moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Garner) Unanimously Approved. *Action Item*
- Accept the FY21 audit/AUP
Ms. Fike presented the results of the Audit. We had 2.5 findings.
(moved by Mr. Shapiro, seconded by Mr. Campbell) Unanimously Approved. *Action Item*

Announcements: Director Bell thanked Mamie Fike and the Business Office staff for their work on the Audit.

Ms. Bell thanked the Board and Friends for their dedication, and volunteering their time to keep the library afloat.

Adjourn:

With no further business, Vice Chair Rice called for adjournment at 4:02 pm. (Motioned by Ms. Russell, seconded by Mr. Campbell) Unanimously approved.

Next Meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2022 at 3:30 pm.