



IN ATTENDANCE: Mike Garner, Bill Cabaniss, Howard Shapiro, Alice Hughes, Sonja Armour, Amy Atao, Mary Frey, Frances Hansford, Valerie Bell, Toby Mayfield, Austin Jenkins, Babs DeArmond, Arya Higginbottom

CALL TO ORDER: **Mike Garner** called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The board reviewed the minutes from the January 18, 2023 meeting.

MOTION: **Howard Shapiro** moved to approve the January 18, 2023 minutes as submitted; seconded by **Mary Frey**; passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments.

REPORTS:

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY REPORT: Babs DeArmond.

The new FOL Board of Directors was elected at their February annual meeting: Babs DeArmond as President, Tom Gresham as Vice President, Peg Thon as Treasurer, and Jean Westmacott as Secretary. The FOL hosted a successful Seed Swap event in March at No. 3 Railroad. At the 2023 Spring Book Sale, held April 12-15, the FOL made \$1,800 from book sales, memberships, and donations. The third art fair & book sale will be held at No. 3 Railroad on May 6.

BRANCH MANAGER REPORT: Austin Jenkins.

A number of facility repairs and maintenance issues were reported during the last quarter, including a broken HVAC condenser. The Board of Commissioners approved the RFP for the LED light upgrade from Summit Lighting at their March meeting; Summit expects to have the work completed by summer.

A new assistive hearing system was installed in the meeting room by local technology group TSAV. The assistive hearing system uses the ListenEverywhere app to broadcast microphone/speaker signals straight to a hearing aid user's hearing aid via their phone. Along with the assistive hearing system, a new sound system was installed.

Austin Jenkins announced he accepted another position within the Athens Regional Library System, and will be stepping down from the branch manager position.

LIBRARY SYSTEM REPORT: Valerie Bell & Toby Mayfield.

Oglethorpe County Library hosted the ARLS branch managers meeting in March. Representatives from the library system attended the annual Legislative Day at the State Capitol in February. As part of the Governor's Emergency Education Relief funds won by Georgia Public Library Service, all libraries in the state, including Oglethorpe, will be receiving Chromebooks and educational tablets for kids. These new technologies will be available for patrons to borrow, pending policy approval by the regional library board.

New library construction at the Wire Park site in Watkinsville and the East Side in

Athens are in process. The state budget for new library materials is expected to be \$0.70 per capita in FY2024, up from \$0.60.

The Strategic Plan is almost complete. Resource Team and Branch Managers will work to add activities that each branch/department can accomplish to help further the goals of the plan.

ARLS received a \$2,000 marketing grant from GPLS to promote early literacy & story time which were given to pediatrician offices & department of health across the region, such as the MedLink office in Oglethorpe.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Arya Higginbottom.

Valerie Bell introduced Arya Higginbottom from Clark Outsource Group, who is providing accounting work for the library system. Arya explained some of the services that will be provided from Clark Outsource. A balance sheet will be provided at each board meeting going forward, and a more detailed report on the Gift account will also be shared. The transition to new software will take some work to smooth out. Operating funds are reported on the balance sheet in 'buckets'; the software transition being done is ensuring that the funds are properly reported in the correct bucket. Gift funds are handled separately from operating funds.

A proposal budget was submitted for approval; a more accurate budget will need to be approved after the fiscal year, when funding for the remainder of FY24 is confirmed.

MOTION: Howard Shapiro moved to accept the budget; **Amy Atao** seconded; approved unanimously.

BUSINESS:

BRANCH MANAGER:

Interviews are expected to be scheduled May 22 and 23. Austin Jenkins will stay on in his current role until the role is filled, and will be helping train the new manager after they begin.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.