

**Oconee County Library Board Meeting**  
**Minutes for April 8, 2024**  
**4:30 p.m.**  
**The Oconee County Library at Bogart**

Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The following members of the Board were present: Chairman Mark Campbell, Vice-Chairperson Rubielen Norris, Secretary Fred Lutz, Angela Moss-Hill, Laura Moore, Deann Craft, Mike Eddy, Daphne Norton, Rachael Watson and Matt Stephens.

Oconee County Library and Athens Regional Library System members were also present including James Mitchell, Donna Butler, Valarie Bell and Toby Mayfield.

The meeting was video recorded by Lee Becker of the community. Chairman Campbell welcomed the approximately thirty community members that attended. Seven Oconee County residents were given the opportunity to address the board for three minutes each based on their order of sign-up. Comments from the speakers to the Board were wide-ranging and included expressions of thanks to the Board, requests for specific reclassifications, concerns that some books are not being shelved in age appropriate areas and appeals to act in the best interest of all children. Chairman Campbell thanked the community representatives for their interest and their input.

Chairman Campbell requested that the published meeting agenda be revised to add two financial update items under new business. A motion offered by Ms. Norris, seconded by Mr. Lutz carried amending the agenda. A motion by Ms. Norton, seconded by Mr. Eddy carried approving the minutes of the January 8, 2024 board meeting.

The Branch Manager's report was provided by Mr. Mitchell. Upcoming library events at Wire Park and Bogart for the current quarter were briefed in detail. The events will be added to the library website calendar. Several board members thanked the library staff for providing a broad program of events for library patrons. Mr. Mitchell highlighted significant library events since the last board meeting. The Wire Park library location opened with more than 2300 visitors at the grand opening. Patron library use of the new library has significantly eclipsed activity recorded a year ago. The Bogart library has also seen increased activity due to temporary closure of the Watkinsville location. The Bogart branch has done an exceptional job "filling the gap". In addition to book circulation, both the Bogart and Wire Park locations have continued to offer a broad range of programming supporting children, teens and adult patrons with staff members participating in educational events in the community. Several unsolicited, complimentary comments from patrons were referred to the board.

Ms. Mayfield reported on regional services activity which included weekly branch manager meetings, Georgia Library Legislative Day participation and, of course, the grand opening at Wire Park.

Director Bell reported major current actions in the region which included 17 board member/staff attending the annual Georgia Library Legislative Day, obtaining several grants applicable to the Wire Park location, and continued program scrutiny to support the region. Director Bell indicated that the library works in partnership with parents. To that end the library strives to maintain a balanced collection, has a robust process for reconsideration of materials and has an online process for purchasing. Parental controls exist such that a parent must sponsor a child less than 18 years of age. If desired, parents can place restrictions on the accounts of their children. In response to recent community feedback the young adult collection has been split into Middle Grade (6-8) and Young Adult (9-12). Separate shelving is being provided for the middle grade books and those books will also be identified by a sticker. Posters and pamphlets are being provided to help parents select books appropriate to their family needs. In response to a comment during the community comment period, Director Bell indicated that she is a member of the American Library Association because the ALA is the professional association for librarians. Her personal membership is maintained at her own expense.

Ms. Butler indicated that Bogart city would conduct a book sale on April 28th. Mr. Mitchell noted that the Friends of the Library had been honored by the Oconee Board of Commissioners for work in the community. The FOL is currently planning Family Fun Day scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup>. The FOL Fall book sale will commence September 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Old Business:**

Two items of old business were addressed. Chairman Campbell added to earlier staff comments regarding the opening of the new library at Wire Park. He expressed thanks to the staff at Bogart for their exceptional support during the Watkinsville library transfer to Wire Park. The next meeting of the library board will be at the Wire Park location. An Art Committee was formed at the January 2024 board meeting to coordinate with Director Bell and Mr. Mitchell to propose appropriate décor and dedication plaques for the Wire Park library (Ms. Norton, Ms. Moore and Ms. Moss-Hill). It is expected that the Art Committee will meet in May and report at the regular July board meeting.

### **New Business:**

Chairman Campbell stated that two books would be addressed by the Board based on requests for reconsideration submitted by Oconee County residents. The review process includes a formal review by the Athens Regional Library System staff. The

professional staff recommendation is then reviewed by the Oconee County Library Board Trustees Book Action Review Committee with a recommendation provided.

The Book Action Review Committee (Chairman Campbell, Ms. Norris, Ms. Craft, Ms. Marable, Mr. Eddy and Mr. Stephens) provided recommendations on two books with the following actions taken:

1. Based on a motion by Mr. Lutz seconded by Ms. Moore, the book, *Other Boys*, was moved from the juvenile section to the young adult section.
2. Based on a motion by Ms. Norris seconded by Mr. Lutz, the book, *Nick and Charlie*, was moved from the young adult section to the adult section.

Mr. Mitchell proposed an updated meeting room policy for the library at Wire Park. Upon a motion by Ms. Moss-Hill, seconded Ms. Moore, the updated policy was approved.

Chairman Campbell presented two financial adjustments involving library assets. He proposed that a CD earning .5% be redeemed and moved to the GA Fund 1 earning 5.3%. The early withdrawal penalty is less than \$1. A motion by Mr. Lutz, seconded by Ms. Norris to redeem and move the associated funds was approved. The GA Fund 1 asset will show up on the balance sheet. Additionally, Chairman Campbell proposed that some \$9400 in previously donated Hess Oil stock be liquidated and moved to the GA Fund 1. A motion to that effect was offered by Ms. Norris and seconded by Mr. Eddy. After discussion the motion carried.

There being no further business, upon the motion by Mr. Eddy seconded by Mr. Stephens, the board adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on Monday July 8, 2024 at the Oconee Wire Park Library location.



Mark Campbell, Chairman



Fred Lutz, Secretary