

Oconee County Library Board Meeting
Minutes for October 10, 2022
4:30 p.m.
Bogart Library

Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order at 4:32 a.m. The following members of the Board were present: Chairman Mark Campbell, Vice-Chairperson Rubielen Norris, Secretary Laura French, Fred Lutz, Daphne Norton, Jonathan Kirkpatrick, Deann Craft, Oconee County Library and Athens Regional Library System members were also present, including James Mitchell, Valerie Bell, Toby Mayfield, and Donna Butler.

Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. Ms. French noted the following changes to the minutes: deletion of the list of those present, adjustment of the October meeting date, and removal of Mr. Lutz as being in attendance. Ms. Norton made a motion to approve the minutes, as amended, seconded by Mr. Lutz, which was unanimously passed by the Board.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Mitchell provided his Librarian's Report to the Board. His written report is attached to these minutes.

Ms. Mayfield provided her Assistant Director's report for regional services. Her written report is attached to these minutes.

Ms. Bell provided her Director's Report to the Board. Her written report is attached to these minutes.

The Friends of the Library Reports were as follows:

Bogart Friends had a bookstore in a building owned by the City of Bogart. The building closed in September 2022. The bookstore has closed indefinitely. The Friends are considering their next steps.

Watkinsville Friends held its sale in September 2022. The sale was very successful. The Friends will hold its next sale in February 2023.

Mr. Campbell provided a report to the Board regarding the new library. Ponder & Ponder have submitted final plans to the City of Watkinsville. The City has provided its comments back to the architects. Mr. Campbell is also working with the parties to resolve outstanding issues. The goal is to publish the bids in October 2022. There are a number of Add Alternates on the design plans, which will yield individual bid prices from the builders. Cost of materials has begun to drop, and excess costs are an ongoing concern.

Mr. Campbell also discussed commemorative naming opportunities for the Oconee County Library at Wire Park. Donor opportunities range from \$1,000 up to \$75,000. Fundraising with donors will commence in the near future. The Board discussed various donor options to support the Oconee Library. There are several donors who are interested and/or prepared to provide immediate support to the Oconee Library.

Additionally, a groundbreaking will be scheduled for the month of December 2022.

There being no further business, upon motion made by Mr. Lutz, seconded by Ms. Craft, the Board adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is on Monday, January 9, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. at the Oconee Library.

The project entails the following elements:

- Conversion of warehouse space to a 21st century library
- Windows/ brick to make it feel welcoming despite the industrial feeling
- Plaza – library faces the plaza; has open space
- Raised plaza for the library connects to a covered porch entrance to the library
- Accessible parking lot
- Strong pedestrian connection from parking lot to the accessible ramp
- Modern cost-effective low maintenance materials
- Floor plan:
 - Main entrance on front/ Barnett Shoals Rd
 - Accessible space after hours
 - Space for Friends
- New feature: collaboration and maker space
- Small recording room
- Lots of IT built in
- 5,000 sq feet on right rear of the building will be accessible by special collections, adult collection, and youth area – all able to grow into that space
- 25,000 open rectangle
- 20,000 finished now
- 5,000 available for future use
- Interior Color Scheme and Finishing elements to be determined.
- Children's area: acoustical ceiling tiles, durable and easy to clean carpet tiles
- High wood traffic areas: luxury vinyl tile designed to look like rustic wood
- Furniture and furnishings:
- Focus on using existing furniture and furnishings in order to purchase

Challenges and opportunities in the project include:

- Insulation: doesn't meet energy code
- Existing siding: has holes
- Walls: uninsulated
- Walls and Siding will be torn off
- Taking insulation and roof off – at the end of its life
- There is demand for used roof panels and they will be sold and repurposed
- The beams and poles/columns, structural steel will be used
- Adding another row of columns and two new beams
- In order to have the structural strength to manage the weight load
- Foundation refurbished/ will be used/ will not be trenched or altered
- New 3.5" slab will be poured on top of the existing
- Conduits for plumbing, IT, utilities will be added
- Building will be clad with plywood / substrate for the exterior

- Brick will be new
- HVAC plumbing electricity low voltage all new

Upon motion of Mr. Eddy, seconded by Ms. Norris, the Board unanimous approved the minutes of the April 2022 Trustees' meeting.

There were no public comments.

Friends of the Library report:

Book sale will be held at the Civic Center in September

Family Fun Day on Tuesdays at the Watkinsville Library
Bogart Library – market on the square Friday, Sat, Sunday

Old Business 2022-2023 Budget reviewed; construction budget as well

Motion to approve the FY23 budget as revised: Ms. Norris, seconded by Ms. Norton, unanimously approved by the Board.

New Business: Library Programs and Displays

Mr. Mitchell provided a report advising the Board as follows: In person programming began a few months ago, and is not completely back up to speed. All library programming is consistent with pre-pandemic programming. Mr. Mitchell provided Library Programming Flyers from Summer 2022 and November 2019.

The PRISM group – has been around approximately 10 years; predates Donna Butler who joined the library in _____. The PRISM group had the largest attendance of any library program in June 2022; the group is consistently supported by the library patrons.

There were four teen programs at the library prior to the pandemic:

- Prism
- D&D
- Anime
- Nerd Herd

The demographics for these groups are totally different, although a few patrons attend all four programs. Nerd Herd has been discontinued due to low/no patron participation. There are 2-4 other programs for teens each month.

Childrens' programming started back in April 2022 and includes:

Summer reading

- At libraries and the civic center
- So popular that events at libraries have to be capped/ people turned away
- Spanish story time
- Read to the dogs
- Lego
- Stem

Adult programs have resumed and include:

- Book discussions
- DIY series
- History program for adults

The library assesses its programs based upon:

- Attendance
- What other libraries are doing
- Impact of the program on attendees (ex – dementia/ alzheimers)
- Who needs or wants outreach
- Regularly evaluated, refined, improved

Following this presentation, the Board offered the following comments and feedback:

Mr. Kirkpatrick commended the staff and praised the programming. He suggested consistencies needed across social media/ and naming of the social media accounts.

Mr. Campbell noted he wants more library programming, and does not want to contract programs. He supports the staff, and asked that it and the Board consider what makes the library successful (participation, attendance, impact). He wants programming to the maximum budgetary extent.

Mr. Eddy also commended the staff. He also suggested a social media coordinator.

Ms. Norton agreed on the social media coordination. She noted that she had to hunt in the library for the Pride display.

Ms. Moss-Hill suggested a regular calendar for social media posts.

Ms. French offered to send a social media calendar example.

Mr. Stephens stated that the parent concerns she has heard centered upon wording in an Instagram post inviting people to join the pride parade.

Mr. Mitchell advised the Board that all teen programs are 6th to 12th grade, and ideally would be separated. Ms. Butler stated that young adults (YA) is for grades 6-12, and the library would love to have a “tween” section. Chairman Campbell stated that libraries don’t divide YA. Ms. Moss-Hill noted that children and teens don’t usually go places they don’t want to go. Ms. French stated the library is here for all members of the community.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Mr. Eddy, seconded by Mr. Kirkpatrick, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, October 9, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. at the Bogart Library.

Mark Campbell, Chairman

Laura French, Secretary