

Oconee County Library Board Meeting
Minutes for October 18, 2021
4:30 p.m.
Bogart Library

The following members of the Board were present: Chairman Mark Campbell, Vice-Chairperson Rubielen Norris, Secretary Laura French (via remote access), Fred Lutz, Angela Moss-Hill, Jonathan Kirkpatrick, Deann Craft, Rachel Watson, Mike Eddy, Daphne Norton, and Matt Stephens.

Chairman Campbell introduced Mr. Matt Stephens, and welcomed Mr. Stephens to the Board. Mr. Stephens was recently appointed to the Board of Trustees as a representative from the Oconee County Board of Education.

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

Upon motion by Mr. Eddy, seconded by Ms. Norris the minutes of the July 2021 meeting were approved, with one correction to the spelling of Ms. Craft's name.

There were no public comments at the meeting.

The Branch Manager's report was provided by Mr. Mitchell. Children's programming has resumed at the library, and in our local preschools. Teen programs have received a great response from the community. The teen programs are also being held in the schools, and the library is working on a program to be held at the civic center. For our adult constituents, the library has hosted hiking programs, blood drives, and created a new partnership with The Landing, senior living facility. Programs are being held outside, where possible.

September was National Library Card sign up month. Local businesses supported the program by providing prizes and discounts for patrons who showed their library cards at the local business.

Evelyn Knauff at the Watkinsville branch has retired. Mr. Mitchell and the Board expressed appreciation for her many years of service to the community. The position has been redesigned into a full-time circulation manager. The branch has hired Jessica Simpson, a former part-time library employee to fill the circulation manager position.

Mr. Mitchell also provided a circulation report. He has added further breakdowns into the types of materials to the circulation report.

The regional report was provided by Ms. Mayfield. She is meeting with the branch managers monthly, as well as attending the local board meetings. Ms. Mayfield has revamped the branch highlights reports to provide more patron stories and comments.

The Oconee Friends of the Library sale was held in September 2021. The sale is comparable to the September 2019 sales numbers. The Friends have so many books as well as community demand that they intend to hold a large sale in February 2022 at the civic center. Mr. Mitchell noted that the Friends' sales provide tremendous resources to the libraries. Ms. Norris took the opportunity to commend and offer her thanks to the Oconee Friends. She noted their work was extraordinary, especially following the pandemic. Chairman Campbell echoed Ms. Norris' sentiments.

The Bogart Friends are hosting an author per month. Trunk-or-Treat will be hosted by the Bogart Friends. This event is held on October 31, 2021 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Ms. Butler let the Board know the library would be open during the Trunk-or-Treat.

Chairman Campbell provided a report to the Board regarding the RFPs submitted for the architectural component of the new Oconee County Library. Within the total of eight submissions, the committee reduced the candidates to a total of four. The committee spent two full days interviewing candidates. The committee selected Ponder & Ponder as the architects for the Oconee County Library to be located at Wire Park. Chairman Campbell expects to have more design information at the January 2022 meeting. A conceptual design will be submitted within the next 8 weeks or so, but the Chairman does not have a precise timeline. He intends for the process to include community involvement and public review and comment. The local, regional, and state library systems have asked the legislature for an additional \$900,000 due to increasing construction costs. Chairman Campbell encouraged the Board to express the importance of the new facility to the Georgia legislature.

Ms. Bell let the Board know that the Athens Regional Board will meet this week. The regional board will accept RFPs for a new strategic plan. Mr. Lutz has volunteered to represent the Board of Trustees on this strategic planning committee. Upon motion by Mr. Eddy, seconded by Ms. Norris, Mr. Lutz was unanimously selected to serve as the Board of Trustees representative on the regional strategic planning committee.

Chairman Campbell opened a discussion on the Board's Bylaws. Ms. Bell advised the Bylaws do not currently provide for members to attend Board meetings via virtual means and be included in the attendance count for quorum purposes.

Ms. Bell advised the Board there is a state best practices standard requiring the Constitution and Bylaws be reviewed every 2 years. Chairman Campbell wishes to form an ad hoc committee to review the Constitution, Bylaws, and provide a report back to the Board in January 2022. He mentioned the Board may wish to review the following items: add a Treasurer position; review the standard meeting dates and times; and consider remote attendance bylaw provisions. Ms. French volunteered to be part of this committee.

Copies of all reports were included in the Board packet for the members' review.

The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. at the Oconee Library. There being no further business, upon motion by Mr. Eddy, seconded by Ms. Marable, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Mark Campbell, Chairman

Laura French, Secretary