

**Oconee County Library Board Meeting**

**Minutes for April 10, 2023**

**4:30 p.m.**

**Bogart Library**

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, Deann Craft, Rachel Watson, Mike Eddy, Daphne Norton, Matt Stephens and Mandy Marable.

Oconee County Library and Athens Regional Library System members were also present including James Mitchell, Valarie Bell, Toby Mayfield and Donna Butler. Aria Higginbottom of Clark Outsourcing was present to present the new balance sheets added to the quarterly financial statement.

Upon motion by Ms. Norris seconded by Ms. Moss-Hill, the minutes of the January 2023 meeting were approved.

There were no public comments at the meeting. The meeting was video-recorded by Mr. Lee Becker of the community.

Chairman Campbell noted that Ms. Norris recently attended the Oconee Board of Commissioners meeting to accept the proclamation of appreciation from the commissioners for the community service provided by the Oconee County library.

Chairman Campbell also announced that construction has commenced on the new library at Wire Park. A ceremonial groundbreaking will be held at 10:00 a.m. on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Both branches of the Oconee libraries will be closed until 12:30 p.m. on Friday so that library staff may attend the ceremony.

The Branch Manager's report was provided by Mr. Mitchell. His written report is attached.

The regional services report was provided by Ms. Mayfield. Her written report is attached.

The regional director's report was provided by Ms. Bell. Her written report is attached. Of particular note is the anticipated additional state budget support for the East Side project and the new Oconee County library. Also, a one-page ARLS strategic plan for 2023-2025 was provided which will serve as the basis for yearly tactical plans in the region. The new ARLS website is available at [www.athenslibrary.org](http://www.athenslibrary.org).

Chairman Campbell thanked board members who attended the board member training session on February 9<sup>th</sup> with the state librarian, Julie Walker, and also expressed thanks to board members who attended the Library Day at the Capital on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Campbell noted that Oconee County was well represented. He urged members to continue to thank our elected officials for their support of the library.

Mr. Mitchell reported that the Watkinsville Friends of the Library conducted a very successful book sale in February. A family fun day is planned for May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Old Business: Chairman Campbell provided an update on the new library construction. If signed by the governor, the additional approved funding will help outfit the new library so that the finished product will be exceptional. Board members reviewed proposed commemorative naming opportunities for designated spaces in the library. There was no objection to the concepts of naming or to a donor wall. Ms. Norris asked for the library completion timeframe. Chairman Campbell indicated that construction was ahead of schedule such that completion may still be accomplished within this calendar year.

New Business: Chairman Campbell advised that a request for reconsideration of materials had been submitted in late March. Staff will review the request and provide a recommendation at the next board meeting. The item will be on the agenda for a vote by the board at the July meeting.

Library financial performance through the fiscal year third quarter was reviewed by the board. Chairman Campbell noted that budgeted revenues received (~79%) exceed expenditures (~72%) such that the finances are in good condition 75% through the year. Ms. Higginbottom explained the new balance sheets provided for both the system and gift accounts.

The proposed budget for the 2024 fiscal year was presented and discussed. Revenues from funding partners are still tentative. The budget will be reviewed at the July meeting. Upon a motion by Ms. Norton seconded by Mr. Eddy, the proposed fiscal year 2024 budget was approved.

There being no further business, upon the motion offered by Ms. Norris and seconded by Ms. Marable, the board adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is Monday July 10, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. at the Watkinsville library.

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Mark Campbell, Chairman

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Fred Lutz, Secretary