

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

The following members of the Board were present: Chairman Mark Campbell (via video conference), Vice-Chairperson Rubielen Norris, who chaired the meeting, Secretary Laura French, Fred Lutz, Daphne Norton, Jonathan Kirkpatrick, Matt Stephens, Rachel Watson, Deann Craft, Mike Eddy, and Mandy Marable.

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

Vice Chair Norris asked the members to review the October 18, 2021, minutes. Upon motion by Mr. Lutz, seconded by Ms. Marable, the minutes were approved.

There were no public comments at the meeting.

The Branch Manager's report was provided by Mr. Mitchell. He presented the Circulation Stats for July – December 2021. He also presented the January 2022 Librarian's Report to Library Board. Children's Services at Bogart continue to be a success. The December 2021 highlight was "Bookin' It with Santa," with over 80 children in attendance. Outreach included storytelling at local elementary schools, as well as community drives to support the diaper bank, animal shelter, and coat/blanket collections. Teen programs are ongoing including Dungeons and Dragons, writing workshops, and volunteer programs.

Other programs and initiatives were included in the Branch Manager's report, provided to the Board members for their review.

Friends of the Library will host their winter book sale at the Oconee Civic Center beginning February 10 through February 13, 2022.

The phone system at the Bogart Library has not been fully resolved. Ms. Bell and Ms. Butler said a remedy should be forthcoming in the near future.

Ms. Rebecca Bower has been promoted to serve as children's coordinator for the Athens Regional Library System. A search for her replacement will begin soon. The annual staff development day was held in the 4Q 2021. Regional services have attended work sessions for the Wire Park/ Watkinsville Library. Other activities were detailed on the written report, provided to the Board members for review.

Ms. Bell advised the Board regarding the strategic planning that is underway for the region. The goal is to create a 5-year vision and plan for the region. Mr. Lutz is serving on the committee.

Ms. Bell let the Board know that a new website is underway for the region.

The Ocone Friends of the Library sale in the Fall of 2021 was a great success.

The Bogart Friends continue to have author talks from self-published authors. The Bogart Friends hosted Darryl Huckaby as a speaker.

Vice-Chair Norris advised the Board that Chairman Campbell and representatives from the region had been meeting and working with Wire Park and the library architects, Ponder & Ponder. Ms. Bell was able to provide a rendering to state officials in anticipation of funding requests. The request for capital outlay is around \$1 million, and the goal is to stretch the dollars in order to complete the Watkinsville Library in a way to meet staff and constituent needs.

Vice-Chair Norris asked the Board to review the Library Constitution and Bylaws. Both governing documents are under review, and the Board will vote on suggested amendments at its April 11, 2022, meeting. Any member who wishes to provide comment should send them to Chairman Campbell.

Mr. Mitchell presented two possible budgets to the Board, based upon the rate of inflation. There are two primary issues: the rate of inflation, as well as competitive wage and salary issues. The Board's role is to approve the requested amount from the contributing government partners. The Board undertook a discussion of salary and budgetary issues. Vice-Chair Norris and Ms. Bell clarified that Chairman Campbell, Mr. Mitchell, and Ms. Bell normally attend the meetings of the library's governing partners to request their financial support for the library. Upon motion by Ms. Norton, seconded by Mr. Kirkpatrick, the Board approved approaching the intergovernmental partners in accordance with proposal B (reflecting a 5% increase) for budgetary support as presented by Mr. Mitchell. *Mark and James – you may change this language as you wish.* Board members will meet with local representatives to discuss budget needs in anticipation of government board meetings in February 2022.

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

The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, April 11, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. at the Bogart Library. There being no further business, upon motion by Ms. French, seconded by Mr. Stephens, the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Mark Campbell, Chairman

Laura French, Secretary