

Oconee County Library Board Meeting

Minutes for April 14, 2025

4:30 p.m.

The Oconee County Library at Wire Park

Chairperson Norris called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The following members of the Board were present: Chairperson Rubielen Norris, Vice-Chairperson Daphne Norton, Angela Moss-Hill, Amanda Marable, Laura Moore, Kelly Hansford, Wanda Stitt-Gohdes and Rachael Watson. Secretary Fred Lutz was travelling and was excused. A quorum was present.

Oconee County Library and Athens Regional Library System members were also present including Beth McIntyre, Mr. Mitchell, Katherine Ratcliffe, Toby Mayfield and Lorrie Swanson.

The meeting was video recorded by Lee Becker of the community. No public comments were offered at the meeting.

A motion by Ms. Moss-Hill seconded by Ms. Moore, carried approving the minutes of the January 13, 2025 board meeting.

The Branch Manager's report was provided by Mr. Mitchell. Recent successful events include a community celebration at the Bogart library for the retirement of Donna Butler.

Katherine Ratcliffe has been hired as the Bogart branch library librarian and will start May 1st. Mr. Mitchell highlighted partnerships and other recent outreach projects. Story time events have included participation by the fire and police departments. Installation of the meeting room divider at Bogart will start soon to complete before the start of the summer reading program. The Watkinsville friends of the library winter book sale took place February 13-16 at the Oconee County Civic Center. The sale was successful. Support by the library friends is much appreciated. The Oconee Friends of the Library fun day will be May 17th.

Upcoming library events at Wire Park and Bogart for the current quarter were briefed in detail.

Ms. Mayfield reported the ongoing activity in regional services which a number of key hires as well as routine meetings and training sessions with branch managers and staff. Ms. Mayfield's detailed report is attached.

Old Business:

The art board created through the Oconee Cultural Arts Foundation has been installed at Wire Park. An RFP has been announced for additional decorative art at the new library. Procurement of an appropriate library board plaque for the Wire Park library is still being planned.

New Business:

Nominations were opened to fill an Oconee County representative vacancy on the regional library board. Ms. Stitt-Gohdes supported the nomination of Daphne Norton as the additional Oconee representative. After Ms. Moss-Hill seconded the nomination, the nomination was approved by the board.

The regional director has requested that board meeting dates be moved to later in the month to permit more complete financial statements being available to county board. Discussion ensued. It was noted that Oconee board bylaws specify meeting dates for the board. It was decided that the third Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. would be an appropriate new time for the Oconee board meetings. Ms. Moore moved that the next Oconee board meeting be scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on July 15th at the Wire Park location. The motion was seconded by Ms. Moss-Hill and carried by vote of the board.

Ms. Stitt-Gohdes volunteered to work with the regional director to review bylaws and recommend updates as appropriate.

Ms. Stitt-Gohdes recommended adding a sign to direct patrons to the outside book return. Mr. Mitchell explained that outside signs must be approved by the Wire Park management. Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Mayfield will take the sign issue for action.

It is noted that the FY2025 state library budget was increased by a small amount. The board did not vote to approve the FY2026 budget since a tentative budget was approved at the last board meeting. The board will approve the FY 2026 budget at the next board meeting.

There being no further business, upon the motion by Ms. Moss-Hill seconded by Ms. Moore, the board adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at the Wire Park Library location.



Rubielen Norris, Chairman



Fred Lutz, Secretary