

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The quarterly regional board meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by the Chair, Frances Chavous. Trustees in attendance were Frances Chavous, chair, Suzanne Goodson, Stu Shatz (phone), Myrtle Sumter, Glenice Watts, Emerson Wiles, and the regional library director, Carolyn Fortson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the March 15, 2022 meeting were approved and accepted as type written.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

BUDGET: Carolyn stated that all county appropriations had been received for the year. She presented two budget hearings- Hampton and Jasper. Had not heard from Allendale County but would call to see what was going on regarding the hearings. Carolyn provided an update on the Clinton College Distance Learning Grant (old business), and she talked about the Bookmobile repairs and the possible donor for the repairs. Glenice gave the update on the Pratt Renovation Project.

OLD BUSINESS:

Carolyn provided an update on the Clinton College, Distance Learning Grant. She stated that the contact person for the grant was hospitalized following surgery and that he apologized for being absent following our last conversation regarding the grant. Carolyn stated a few of her concerns regarding the grant and the fact that Dr. McLamb did not send her the entire grant as was requested. Carolyn will contact him to move this process along.

NEW BUSINESS:

The chair stated that the issue on the table for the board is the City of Hardeeville and the Hardeeville Library issue concerning the Community Room and the Computer Lab. Frances gave an overview of the issues at hand and references made from the original MOU that is a legally binding contract between the two entities. The city manager for Hardeeville has requested a meeting to further discuss the issues. Carolyn suggested that as many trustees as possible should attend the meeting to show unity and support for the Hardeeville Library and the AHJ system. There was a discussion about the computer lab and whether the computers are part of the AHJ system. Carolyn will reach out to Nathan, ANC/IT and Paul, IT/State Library again for clarification. Stu asked if it might be necessary to consider talking with an attorney. The board unanimously agreed that this was not the time to seek an attorney; that we should wait until after the upcoming meeting with the City before moving in the direction of counsel from an attorney.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOOKMOBILE REPAIRS / DONOR PAYING FOR REPAIRS

Carolyn shared with the trustees that Sally Mayse stopped by the library to speak with her regarding donating money to the library. Ms. Mayse asked where the need was, and Carolyn informed her that the bookmobile was currently in the shop and that we anticipated a high bill for the overdue repairs. Ms. Mayse is an officer within the Episcopal Church and that the church should be providing services within the communities. Through assistance from the church, she is planning to pay for the bookmobile repairs.

TRUSTEE RESIGNATION

Stu shared that Vasilisa Hamilton resigned as a trustee from the Jasper County Library Board due to health issues. Sandi Vito has volunteered to replace Ms. Hamilton on the regional board effective immediately.

PRATT RENOVATION PROJECT

Glenice gave the update regarding the Pratt Library's renovation project. Glenice shared that Jasper County is providing \$2 Million dollars from the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) for the Pratt Renovation Project. However, a suggestion that the library host a fundraiser to help raise additional funds for the project. Tying the school to the library and gathering history about the former school was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:05 pm.

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 6pm @ Estill Public Library

*Submitted by
Carolyn Fortson, Library Director
June 30, 2022*