

Jasper County Library
Board of Trustees
Meeting minutes
10/15/2024

Present

Trustees:

Julie Mikols, Chair
Stuart Shatz, Vice-Chair
Sandi Vito, Secretary
Daniel Gemmel
Glenice Watts
Billy Weaver

Staff:

Abigail Ashley, Acting Regional Director
Darlene Thomas-Burroughs, Hardeeville Branch Manager

Guests:

Eileen Cole, President, Friends of Pratt Library
Carolyn Crosby, President, Friends of Hardeeville Library
Beth Miller, Vice-President, Friends of Hardeeville Library

Chair called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
July minutes were approved.

Budget presentation

Carry-over funds are sufficient for three months operating reserve. The budget as approved by the AHJ Regional Board was presented and is attached to the minutes. Jasper County approved the annual appropriation to the libraries, and the first quarter allocation is expected soon.

Hardeeville Branch Report, *Presented by Darlene Thomas-Burroughs, Hardeeville Branch Manager*

Utilization Report

	July	Aug	Sept	Total
Directive Questions	34	24	37	95
Computer Usage	320	243	239	802
New Cards Issued	50	57	36	143
Patrons	773	724	578	2075
Reference Questions	421	385	330	1,136

Programs held during the July-Sept quarter, included:

STEM	9
Images of Discovery	12
River Ports Extension	130
Tormenta Soccer	69
Open Painting	9
Animal Tracks	4

The library was closed for 4.5 days during Tropical Storm Debby and Hurricane Helene. Early voting for the General Election in November will not take place at the Hardeeville Library, but the Branch Manager will offer the library for future elections.

Pratt Library Report, Presented by Abigail Ashley, Acting Regional Director

Utilization Report

	<u>Total</u>
Patrons	1335
New library cards	71
Computer usage	295
Directions	391
Reference	474

Pratt Events and meetings were attended by 395 people and include:

Palmetto Speech
 SC Center for the Blind
 Jasper County Historical Society
 Healthy Eating
 Story Time
 Painting Rocks
 STEAM-y Fridays (STEM, plus arts)

Acting Regional Director's Report, presented by Abigail Ashley, Acting Regional Director

Hoopla – The Regional Library System will enter a contract with Hoopla, which provides electronic resources, including eBooks, audiobooks, music, and movies. It is compatible with most Ereaders including Kindle, smartphones, and other devices. The total cost for the AHJ system is estimated to be \$13,000 annually, providing access to more than 1.5 million books. Hoopla will eliminate the need to purchase individual eBooks and will ultimately replace the iCloud Library digital resource. The expected launch date is December 2024.

Sprinter Van Grant – The prior Regional Director secured a \$50k Impact Grant for a Sprinter Van, which could replace and/or be used coterminously with the AHJ Book Mobile. The twenty-year-old Book Mobile is currently out of service for significant repairs, which are expected to take one month.

The Impact Grant can be used for a portion of the costs for a new Sprinter Van, which will be outfitted with materials for mobile library services. However, an additional \$150,000 must be raised over the next year and a half to make the Sprinter Van fully functional.

Friends of Pratt Library Report, *presented by Eileen Cole*

The Pratt Friends group participated in the annual Gopher Hill event, where they raised \$1300 through a quilt auction. The AHJ Book Mobile, alongside the Friends Float, participated in the Gopher Hill parade to raise awareness of library services. Two hundred book markers with information about the Pratt Library move to temporary space were distributed.

The Friends group is working with Thrift Books, which will sell extra books due to be eliminated from the Pratt Library. This will facilitate the move, raise funds, and ensure a future home for books no longer needed by the library system.

Friends of the Hardeeville Library Report, *presented by Carolyn Crosby*

The Hardeeville Friends group is now fully functioning and has 31 members. They received a grant of \$250 from the Friends of South Carolina Libraries, have obtained appropriate insurances, designed brochures (available at the libraries), produced their first newsletter, and purchased book sale bags.

The Friends group launched their first major grass-roots fundraising and community engagement activities. A used book sale will take place in November. Hundreds of books were donated, and community members can purchase used, discounted books on November 8th and 9th. The Friends group also raised \$656.72 from a garage sale.

Pratt Renovations

County Council approved \$1.8 million for the Pratt Renovations. MB Kahn is finalizing contracts for design of temporary and permanent space. They will inform the Trustees and staff of final dates for the move to temporary space and groundbreaking on the Pratt Renovations.

Trustee Elections

Stu Shatz stepped down as Vice-Chair and as a Trustee, effective December 31, 2024. His years of leadership were acknowledged, and Trustees expressed the appreciation for his stellar service.

Glenice Watts was nominated and elected as the new Vice-Chair for the Jasper County Trustees.

Submitted by Sandi Vito, Secretary, January 9, 2025