



Regional Board Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2024

Past Board President, Sandra Crofford, standing in for Ruth O’Loughlin, called the Southeast Arkansas Regional Library Board meeting to order at 10:34 am. Those in attendance & via zoom were board members Judge Jessie Griffin, Larry Alexander, Karen Anderson, Myra Cingolani, Sandra Crofford, Cristy Dunnahoe, Kim Forrest, Dianna Harmon, Jerry Moore, Reathel Privett, Elgenia Ross, Mary Jo Tucker, Vern Wilson, and Regional Director, Judy Calhoun. Visitors included: Jennifer Knight.

Ms. Crofford opened the meeting by introducing new Desha County Board member, Mary Jo Tucker from Dumas. The agenda was amended to include new items. Minutes of the October meeting were under review. Vern Wilson made the motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Vertie Staples, motion passed. A motion to accept the special board meeting minutes was made by Vertie Staples and seconded by Dianna Harmon. The motion passed. The financial report was presented in printed form. The Director noted items that increased during the year. Elgenia Ross made the motion to approve the report, Cristy Dunnahoe gave the second and the motion was approved.

Director’s Report:

The Director report included an update on the after-school disturbances at the Star City Branch, the Mr. Rogers Sweater Drive, and meetings attended. The 4th quarter and yearly statistics were presented to the board.

Committee Reports:

The Branch Improvement Committee report included updates on the Eudora Renovation. The building has been painted and new flooring installed. Free standing shelving has been replaced with wall shelving to give the branch more open space for programs. The number of public computers has been reduced and smaller computer tables installed. A new circulation desk was purchased from the Arkansas Marketing and Redistribution program. The Director showed pictures of the renovation process.

Old Business:

2024 budget revision. The revision included changes to line item amounts to reflect price increases from 2023.

New Business:

First on the agenda for new business was the 2022 audit. The Director asked if there were any questions or concerns with the audit and there were none. Next on the agenda was the replacement for Vice-President with the resignation of Dinah Cox. Traditionally the Vice-President is chosen from each

counties, alphabetically. Desha County was next for VP. A motion to accept Larry Alexander from Dumas as Vice-President was made by Vertie Staples, seconded by Myra Cingolani. The motion was approved. Next on the agenda was the creation of a search committee for a new Director. The committee included: Ruth O'Loughlin, Vickie Ross, Diane Parnell, Sandra Crofford, and Myra Cingolani. Jerry Moore made the motion to accept the committee, second by Dianna Harmon and the committee was approved.

The last item on the agenda was the solar eclipse event in Arkansas. The Director suggested closing the region libraries so staff could participate in the event. Jerry Moore made the motion to close the region, second by Larry Alexander and the motion passed. The region will be distributing 19,000 eclipse glasses to the public before the event.

Correspondence:

The board packet included thank you notes from staff for their Christmas bonuses.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Announcements:

The date of the next Regional Board meeting will be held on May 13 at the Monticello Branch meeting room. The meeting was adjourned