

Southeast Arkansas Regional Library

MINUTES

Regional Board Meeting

January 24, 2022

The Southeast Arkansas Regional Library Board met via Zoom on Monday, January 24, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Board President, Kim Forrest at 10:34 am. The minutes of October 11, 2021 were presented in printed form. Diane Parnell made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Jerry Moore and the minutes were approved. The financial report was presented in printed form. The Director pointed out two areas over budget in 2021 but stated that the Region would search for lower alternatives in 2022. Sandra Crofford made the motion to approve, Elgenia Ross gave the second and the motion was approved.

The Director's report included updates to the new Integrated Library System (ILS) Apollo and the launch of the new website. Information about purchases made through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) fund was also given. Purchases included outdoor lockers, book returns, and WIFI extenders and routers. The Director shared the 2021 yearly statistics which included an increase in website visits.

The Branch Improvement Committee report was submitted. A new roof and wall repair will begin in the Dermott Branch very soon. Ceiling repair and roof replacement will take place in the Dumas Branch in near future.

There was no old business. Under new business, the CARES act reimbursement was on the agenda. Part of the CARES act fund made to libraries included reimbursement for funds spent on Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) items and e-material during the 2020-2021 year. SEARL was reimbursed \$19,286.00. There are no restrictions on the manner and timeframe on how the money can be used. The Director recommended the reimbursement amount be added to the Branch Improvement Fund. Kim Forrest made the motion to move the money to the Branch Improvement account, Reathel Privet made the second and the motion passed.

The Director shared several thank you cards from Branch Managers to the board for the Christmas bonus. The meeting was interrupted several times by visitor, Roger Davis, was admonished for not waiting until the end of the meeting to be recognized as requested.

The next Regional Board meeting will be held on April 18, 2022 in Drew County. A letter will be sent after the details have been arranged. Mack Jewel Grant and other board members expressed their appreciation to the library staff for their part in distributing Covid rapid tests to the public. Board president, Kim Forrest opened the meeting to questions or comments from visitors. Visitor Roger Davis requested permission to address the board. Mr. Davis questioned the board about the mask requirement in the Regional Libraries and other decisions made by the Regional Director. Board President, Kim Forrest instructed Mr. Davis to submit his questions in writing to the board. Mr. Davis had been recently suspended from the Lake Village Library for refusal to wear a mask and refusing to leave the library.

Members present via zoom: Debby Bland, Jeri Brewer, Sandra Crofford, Dinah Cox, Mack Jewel Grant, Dianna Harmon, Kim Forrest, Gaynell Jamison, Jerry Moore, Cliff Morgan, Ruth O'Loughlin, Diane Parnell, Reathel Privet, Elgenia Ross, Vicki Ross, Vertie Staples, Vern Wilson, Director, Judy Calhoun. Visitors included: Roger Davis, Jennifer Knight, and Stacey McKeown.