

Southeast Arkansas Regional Library

MINUTES

Regional Board Meeting

January 23, 2023

The Southeast Arkansas Regional Library Board met in person at the Monticello Branch Library Meeting room and via Zoom on Monday, January 23, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Board President, Ruth O'Loughlin at 10:30 am. Ms. O'Loughlin welcomed the new Desha County Judge, Jessie Griffin to the meeting. The president asked for a motion to amend the agenda to include a new section, Online Voting. A motion to amend the agenda was made by Jerry Moore, seconded by Cristy Dunnahoe and the motion passed. The minutes of October 22, 2022 were presented in printed form. The Director pointed out a correction. Reathel Privett made the motion to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Jerry Moore and the minutes were approved. The financial report was presented in printed form. There were several line items that went over budget, however the region ended the year with 97% of the budget spent. The Director noted that those lines items over had been increased for the 2023 budget year. Sandra Crofford made the motion to approve, Diane Parnell gave the second and the motion was approved.

The Director's report included information of the check fraud, grants awarded to Branch Libraries, and the 75th Anniversary celebration. A corrected statistical report was passed out to board. The Director noted that the Arkansas Digital Library Consortium had 1.3 million checkouts in 2022. Southeast Arkansas Regional Library was 7th out of 52 libraries in checkouts.

Under Old Business, the Director asked if there were any questions about the 2021 Audit Report. There were no questions or discussion. Next under Old Business was the Branch Improvement Committee report. The Committee has approved estimates for replacing flooring in the Dumas Branch Library and removing all flooring in Eudora and going to polish concrete. Desha County has been asked to help with the cost of the flooring in Dumas. Lastly, the Revised 2023 Budget was given to the board. The revenues were up from 2022 and the Director requested a 3% raise for full-time and regular staff be included. Reathel Privett made a motion to approve the raise, seconded by Judi Fava, motion passed. Kim Forrest made a motion to approve the amended 2023 budget. Judi Fava second the motion and the motion passed.

In new business, it is the tradition of the board to choose the position of Vice-Chair from each county. Nominations for Vice-Chair from Desha County were opened. Sandra Crofford nominated Dinah Cox for the position of Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations. Jerry Moore made a motion to accept Dinah Cox as Vice-Chair. Nancy Vittitow second the motion and the motion passed. A motion to keep Vickie Ross as Treasurer and Diane Parnell as Alternate was made by Sandra Crofford. Nancy Vittitow made the second and the second passed.

Next under New Business was to update a Bank Signature Card. A motion was made to remove Sandy Doss from the Warren Branch bank accounts and add Kandice Wever was made by Diane Parnell. The motion was seconded by Dianna Harmon and the motion passed.

Under the heading of Online Voting, the region was notified in December concerning a mistake in the tax formula in Desha County. A reimbursement of \$10,581.65 was to be made back to Desha County. The board was notified via email about the situation. Jerry Moore made to motion to repay the money from the Region's Discretionary funds. After discussion, Ruth O'Loughlin made the motion.

Under correspondence, the Director shared the resignation of Desha County Board Member, Jeri Brewer. Thank you cards from library staff were also shared to the board. The Director also shared correspondence from State Librarian, Jennifer Chilcoat, concerning several bills that could impact Librarians and libraries. Those bills are:

House Bill 1027 - to require voter approval of certain tax levies; and to make technical corrections

House Bill 1046 - to amend the law governing state sales and use taxes regarding wheelchair-accessible motor vehicles (may apply to bookmobiles, etc.)

Senate Bill 66 - to create the protection of minors from distribution of harmful material act....and to require reasonable age verification

Senate Bill 68 - to amend the law that requires Holocaust education; and to establish Holocaust Education Week in the public schools of the state of Arkansas (for curriculum support)

Senate Bill 81 - to amend the law concerning obscene materials; to create the offense of furnishing a harmful item to a minor; and to amend the law concerning obscene materials loaned by a library.

The next Regional Board meeting will be held on April 17, 2023 in Lincoln County. A letter will be sent after the details have been arranged. Next on the agenda was a speaker from floor, Roger Davis. Mr. Davis contacted the Director by email stating he would be attending the board meeting in person and asked for 15 minutes to address the board. Mr. Davis was reminded he was suspended from all Regional property. However, he could attend the board meeting via zoom and would have 5 minutes. When recognized by Board President, Ruth O'Loughlin, Mr. Davis declined to speak stating circumstances had changed.

Diane Parnell made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Sandra Crofford and the meeting was adjourned.

Members present in person & via zoom: Sandra Crofford, Dinah Cox, Cristy Dunnahoe, Kim Forrest, Dianna Harmon, Gaynell Jamison, Jerry Moore, Ruth O'Loughlin, Diane Parnell, Reathel Privet, Vicki Ross, Cindy Smith, Vertie Staples, Nancy Vittitow, Vern Wilson, Director, Judy Calhoun. Visitors included: Jennifer Knight, Stacey McKeown, Robin Cook, Mayor & Ms. Bush, Roger Davis.