

Central Arkansas Library System
Board of Directors Meeting
March 28, 2024, at 12:00 P.M.
Hybrid Meeting: Terry Library & Zoom Video Call

Board members in attendance were Joyce Elliott, David Finkbeiner, Audrey Evans, Luke Underwood, Alexis Sims, Dustin McDaniel, Brandon Grice, Madhav Shroff and Jennifer Jamison. Stacey McAdoo, Ryan Davis, Karama Neal and Esperanza Massana-Crane were absent.

Staff in attendance were Nate Coulter, Jo Spencer, Ellen Samples, Kate Matthews, Tameka Lee, Eliza Borné, Gonzalo Hernandez, Will Gross, Carol Coffey, Pam Bandy, Polly Deems, Nathan Smith, Jennifer Cordell, Hannah Saulters, Fabio Delgado, Chris Ketterman, Glenn Whaley, Amanda Orgeland Rebecca Beadle.

Also in attendance were Joe Flaherty from the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, Reese Rowland from Polk Stanley Wilcox, and Stephanie Chase from Constructive Disruption.

Action Items

1. Approval of Minutes

Evans asked the Board to approve the February minutes as presented.

Shroff moved to approve the February minutes as presented. Elliott seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

2. Approval of December Financials

Grice reported that as of February 28, 2024, CALS assets totaled \$109,335,724.18 with a net loss of \$1,940,796.41. Property tax receipts through March were up about 22.1%.

Evans filed the financials for audit.

Information Items

1. Main Construction Update

Rowland announced that the final cost for Main had been received from the subcontractors and the total was in line with the funds available (\$25 Million) for the project. He reported that demolition had officially begun. Rowland walked the board through a set of the most updated version of some of the renderings of what the remodeled space at Main will look like when the work is completed next year.

2. Strategic Plan Community Mapping Exercise

Coffey re-introduced Chase to the board. Chase asked the board to write down the names of 5 people, groups, or institutions that the library should engage with when putting together the strategic plan to get their input. After they had completed that, Chase asked the board members to write down 5 more names. Chase then directed those in attendance to turn to each other and discuss the names they had written down, looking for similarities and differences. Coffey collected the forms filled out by the board to create a list of potential partners for the strategic planning process.

3. Director's Report

Coulter highlighted a few items from his monthly written Director's Report.

Coulter announced that construction at Williams was on pace to be finished in April. Staff would then work to prepare the branch for its reopening on April 19. He also reminded the board of the Family Dinner Night event on April 18 and encouraged them to purchase tickets if they hadn't done so already.

He then reported that CALS had fully recovered from the network disruption in February, and that we have now implemented new security measures including system monitoring and third-party authentication (TPA) to reduce the chances of ransomware attacks in the future. Sims asked if there were updates on who engaged with the attack and how they got into the system. Coulter called on Spencer to answer. She noted that the international hacker group Lockbit 3.0 had placed a ransomware file on the VX rail server. Coulter noted that the organization typically uses a scattered approach, with attacks being made across a wide variety of targets at once. It was noted that the hackers had gotten into our system by way of remote server access. Since the attack, the remote access was locked down to only a few IT staff and now requires TPA to access.

Coulter asked Borné to recount the success of March's used book sale at the port location, which raised over \$25,000 for programs and grants at branches. Finkbeiner mentioned he had heard some complaints from shoppers related to "book scanners," shoppers who use digital devices to scan books looking for prices online to determine if they want to buy them for resale. Borné acknowledged that this had been a concern and that several solutions were being considered including a more active staff presence to engage with patrons partaking in this practice and enforcing courteous shopping practices (such as not blocking the aisles with large stacks of books). Coulter reported that the LR Port had plans to sell the building CALS is renting for its temporary offices and the site of the book sales. He noted that the long-term plans were to find a similar space that was more centrally located for hosting the book sales after Main is reopened.

Samples announced that a new summary sheet highlighting future programs would be showing up in board meeting packets. She previewed the library's programming for the upcoming eclipse including events at branches and the distribution of free eclipse glasses to patrons. She offered members of the board eclipse glasses.

Coulter noted that Lee would be a part of panel presenting library communications strategies at the Public Library Association conference next month in Columbus, OH.

4. Other

Evans asked the board to publicly vote on what they had discussed during the executive session during the last board meeting, a 3.5% pay raise for Coulter.

Underwood moved to approve the pay raise and Grice seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

5. Move to Adjourn

Evans adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.



President



Secretary