

Minutes of the January 14th, 2019 Meeting of the Oconee Library Board of Trustees
4:30 p.m. Watkinsville Library
Watkinsville, Georgia

Present: Donna Butler, Adam Cain, Susan Curtis, Mike Eddy, Cara Karnes, Jean Mead, Penny Mills, Rubielen Norris, Dave Shearon, Susan Winstead, and Robert Wyatt

Excused: Deann Craft, Amy Perry

Guests: Mark Campbell, Collie Pearson, Mellie Pearson, Nickie Pearson

Robert Wyatt called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. He welcomed Dave Shearon to the Board and noted that Dave's term is for five years. In turning to the minutes of the previous meeting Robert asked that the year 2015 be inserted in the sentence describing the source of money for the Watkinsville Library air conditioning units. He then asked for approval of the October 8th revised meeting minutes. Mike moved to approve the minutes and Penny seconded the motion. The revised minutes were approved unanimously.

Robert welcomed Collie Pearson from Westminster Academy, Boy Scout Troop 7. Collie explained that his Eagle Scout Project is to construct a pollinator garden outside the Bogart Library. He plans to install plants that will attract butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds as well as create homes for insects. The pollinator garden will be installed near the Bogart Library's front door. Robert asked if he also planned to install host plants for the butterflies. Collie responded that he would do so. He is partnering with the Bogart Library, the Smith Planning Group, and the Keep Oconee Beautiful Commission. Robert thanked Collie for his presentation and added that as he was a retired university professor of botany and ecology he would be pleased to offer assistance if needed.

Cara gave the Branch Manager's report. She congratulated Molly Moore on receiving the Distinguished Staff Award at the Athens Regional Library System staff day. She recounted the Watkinsville library staff's difficulties in entering a float in the Christmas parade due to rain but commended participants for their perseverance. She mentioned the library's partnership with the Keep Oconee Beautiful Commission's program entitled Read for Recycling. She also noted that the Visit with Santa sessions went well as did the Stop Motion Animation Video program. She related the compliment of a grandmother who brings her grandchild to the Storytime sessions, noting that the program helps her grandchild's socialization skills. Another patron commended the library for its useful access to the Chilton database on car repair. Robert asked about the installation of a firewall, which Cara included in her written report under the heading "Facility". Cara explained that this was a computer firewall and that a technician from the county installed it.

Jean gave the Regional Report. Since this was her first meeting with the Board, she introduced herself, briefly explaining that she previously worked in Hart County. She is now the Assistant Director for Regional Services and Outreach for the Athens Regional Library System. She stated that the Bogart expansion is going well and that she is hoping for a mid-February re-opening.

She explained that PINES now permits libraries to charge 20 cents per day for overdue DVDs, thus simplifying the fine schedule. PINES will be offline from January 19th through January 22nd for an update. An American Dream Grant enabled the Library System to provide mobile kitchen units to seven branches, including both the Watkinsville and Bogart branches. These units will help with various adult and children's programs. Due to patron interest in ancestry research, Ashley Shull from the Heritage Room of the Athens Regional Library will host several workshops this spring. Jean also announced that focus group sessions are planned to gather more ideas from library users for possible incorporation in the System's Strategic Plan. Jean briefly reviewed the financial data sheet, noting that the Oconee County Libraries are in excellent shape.

Donna gave the Bogart Friends of the Library report. The Trick or Treat on the Square program attracted 350 children. Fifty children came to the Bookin' with Santa program. She thanked the Friends of the Bogart Library for sharing their space during the construction of the expanded library.

Penny announced that the Watkinsville Friends of the Library sale will take place on February 7th, 8th, and 9th. She encouraged volunteers to sign up on the Friends' website. She noted that the group has received many donations since Christmas. Some books, which the Friends deem less likely to sell, are donated to local area nonprofits.

Donna gave an update on the expansion of the Bogart Library. The carpet is in and lighting is going up. Most of the landscaping is done and the retention pond is fenced. She is very excited about a closet in the children's section and the library's studio space.

Under New Business, Robert thanked Kimberly Lowman for her years of service but noted that she has resigned due to other commitments. Mark Campbell, formerly a member of the Board, will fill the balance of Kimberly's term. Mark's tenure will begin on February 5th. At that time, he will resume his position as Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees.

The next meeting will be April 8th in the new Bogart Library. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Curtis