

Ouachita Parish Public Library

Board of Control

MINUTES

August 10, 2023

The Ouachita Parish Public Library Board of Control Meeting was held on Thursday, August 10, 2023, at the Main Branch of the Ouachita Parish Public Library. The following members: Ms. Betty Ward Cooper, President; Mr. Darris Waren, Vice-President; Ms. Alex Webre; Ms. Misti Cordell; and Ms. Kathy Craig were in attendance. Mr. Wyman Mardis; Mr. Larry Bratton, ex-officio member; and Ms. Mashi Epting were absent.

Also attending were Mr. Shane Smiley, OPPJ President; Mr. Brad Cammack, OPPJ Treasurer; Mr. Jay Mitchell, OPPJ Assistant District Attorney; Ms. Nancy Green, OPPL Acting Director; Ms. LaKeisha Bosworth, OPPL Assistant Director; and Ms. Casie Castle, OPPL Business Manager.

President Betty Ward Cooper called the meeting to order at 12:06pm and Ms. Craig gave the invocation.

There were no agenda changes, and the agenda was approved on a motion by Mr. Waren, seconded by Ms. Craig.

President Cooper welcomed the public, Ms. Dilcie McDonald Green and guests Mr. Bill Land and Mr. Robert Manning of Land 3 Architect and Mr. Bill Roark, local realtor with TriState Properties.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Roark reviewed the Appraisal Analysis Report of 1800 North 18th Street Multiple Parcels. The appraised value of the Main Branch building was \$1,579,000. The appraisal of land located on Hudson and 19th Street that the library sits on was \$1,076,500. The appraisal of the 0.32 acres of land located across from the library on Stubbs Ave was \$123,000. The total appraised value of the current Main Branch and land was \$2,778,500.

Mr. Roark referred then to the three potential properties that could be possible sites for the location of a new Carver-McDonald Branch. The first is the Dhaliwal property on the corner of Renwick Street and Hwy 165. The second is the Miller property located on Renwick Street between Miller Funeral home and the recreation center. The third location is the Nelson properties that would need to have an appraisal done on it. Mr. Waren suggested that that the Board take no action at this time on property for Carver-McDonald and allow President Cooper to contact Ms. Miller to discuss the possibility of the sale of the Miller property.

Mr. Land then presented to the Board the 3 plans for the layout of the new Main Branch. Each plan presented had changes to it that affected the price of the proposed construction ranging from Plan A as the most expensive to Plan C as the least expensive. Mr. Land discussed costs that had come up since the building was acquired that were initial expenses needing to be taken care of such as the Asbestos removal in the carpet that will cost \$105,000 along with roof damage that needs repairing. Insulation is also needed on the roof, which will cost \$140,000 to install.

A motion was made by Ms. Webre and seconded by Ms. Cordell to recommend Plan A to the Police Jury.

The minutes from the May 11, 2023, meeting were approved on a motion by Ms. Cordell, seconded by Ms. Craig with all present voting in favor of approval.

Ms. Green then reviewed OPPL's monthly Statistical, Financial, and Personnel Reports from the months of May, June, and July of 2023. The Statistical reports were approved on a motion of Mr. Waren with a second by Ms. Webre.

Ms. Green reported that the "Bikes for Books" event was held at the Main Branch with the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ouachita donating 10 bicycles, one for each library branch, to be given away in a drawing. Each child who read and logged at least 750 pages during the Summer Reading Challenge was entered to win one of the 10 bicycles. Ms. Green also noted the total pages logged for the entire Summer Reading Challenge were 2,153,795 pages.

The Financial Reports for May, June, and July 2023 were then reviewed approved on a motion by Ms. Webre, seconded by Ms. Craig.

The Personnel Reports for May, June, and July 2023, were reviewed and approved on a motion by Mr. Waren, seconded by Ms. Cordell.

Ms. Bosworth reported that Ouachita Parish Public Library has been awarded a grant from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Louisiana Foundation Telehealth Pilot Grant Program. The grant provides a booth that patrons can go into and privately receive health advice via a doctor during a tele-med visit. This will provide another service to our patrons who may not have the availability of high-speed internet at home to access this health service.

President Cooper addressed Senate Bill 7 which is now ACT 436. Ms. Green indicated a complete copy of the Bill that was included in each member's packet along with a Summary of the Bill that was provided by the State Library which was read. Mr. Mitchell stated that at this time the Ouachita Parish Public Library should wait to hear from the State Library of Louisiana on guidance for policy updates to be in adherence to Act 436.

Two Reconsideration of Materials Forms were presented requesting books be taken from a restricted status that had been done due to Reconsideration forms by other community members at a previous board meeting. Mr. Mitchell advised Ms. Green to tell the patron

submitting the most recent Reconsideration form that the library was going to stay with the status quo until receiving guidance from the State Library of Louisiana on policies to uphold Act 436.

Mr. Cammack mentioned that the audit for the library had been completed, and he would present it to the board at the next meeting along with a reminder to start on the revised 2023 and proposed 2024 budgets.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm on a motion by Ms. Webre, seconded by Ms. Cordell, with all voting in favor.

Nancy Green

Secretary

Betty Ward-Cooper

President