

Ouachita Parish Public Library

Board of Control

Minutes

August 4, 2022

The Ouachita Parish Public Library Board of Control Meeting was held on Thursday, August 4, 2022, at the Main Branch of the Ouachita Parish Public Library. In attendance were the following members: Ms. Betty Ward Cooper, President; Mr. Darris Waren, Vice-President; Ms. Alex Webre; Mr. Robert Wright, Jr.; Ms. Kathy Craig, and Mr. Larry Bratton ex-officio member. Ms. Misti Cordell and Mr. Wyman Mardis were absent. Also attending were 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 12:01pm.

Mrs. Kathy Craig led the invocation.

President Cooper called for any agenda changes. There were no changes, and the agenda was approved as presented.

President Cooper welcomed guests Ms. Maxine Tatum, Chairman of the Concerned Citizens Committee; Ms. Dilcie McDonald Green; and former OPPL Board Member Ms. Pat Moore. Each guest spoke about their concerns about the Carver McDonald Branch and the need to continue with the search for property in that area to plan for a new building. They all expressed their wishes for the Carver-McDonald Branch to remain as close as possible to the current location to meet the needs of the citizens there and Carroll Jr. High and Sr. High School.

Former OPPL Board member Dr. Bettye Kauffman and Dr. Sonya Jenkins also voiced their concerns about the future of the Carver-McDonald Branch and the need to address construction or renovation plans for that Branch.

Additional guests included Mr. Bill Land and Mr. Robert Manning of Land 3 Architect.

The minutes from the previous meeting held on July 14, 2022, were approved on a motion by Ms. Webre, seconded by Mr. Waren with all present voting in favor of approval.

OPPL Board Member Mr. Larry Bratton then expressed his appreciation for Mr. Waren's efforts to get 20 laptops donated from Scott Equipment for the upcoming broadband initiative training classes.

The only monthly report to be presented for August was the Personnel Report due to the early meeting date and no statistical or financial information is available until later in the month. These reports will be presented at the September meeting.

The Personnel report for July 2022 was approved on a motion by Mr. Waren, seconded by Mr. Wright.

Ms. Green gave the Acting Director's report stating that she and Ms. Bosworth would be attending a Director's training conference in Baton Rouge the following week.

President Cooper called on Mr. Land and Mr. Manning of Land 3 Architect to present plans for the renovation of Main Branch. Mr. Land discussed a meeting he attended with himself, Ms. Green, and Ms. Bosworth where a limit of \$6 million was proposed for making the renovations at Main Branch. Mr. Land noted that at a previous board meeting one board member had said something about making the entrance striking. Therefore, he and Mr. Manning had used the East Baton Rouge Parish Library as an example to make the entrance to Main Branch more modern looking. Mr. Manning presented the new renderings for the front entrance of Main Branch. It was noted that improvements done were going to mainly be ones the public could view such as changes to the outside of the branch, new fixtures, and doing without wooden ceilings. Also, noted was that Tech Services Department, Bookmobile, and the Business Offices would be left as is at this time to reduce costs since the public do not see these areas. Mr. Land and Mr. Manning both discussed how all the mechanical systems would not need to be replaced. They spoke about wanting to keep the glass walls that were in the renovation plan for safety purposes. No carpet is planned for the main area except in the stacks. Genealogy is to be moved to the second floor with Special Collections which will allow an expansion of the Louis Lock Meeting Room area.

Ms. Moore asked if renovations would cause the Main Branch to close to which Mr. Waren expressed it was his understanding that the renovation would be done in phases to keep the library open. Mr. Land said that the building may not be able to remain open to the public; however, it will be open to staff. Mr. Waren asked upon seeing the new plans if restrooms could be only in the back of the library instead of putting new ones in the front in order to save on costs.

Ms. Moore also inquired about the possibility of first renovating Carver Branch and then coming back to Main Branch to have a place for staff to go during the renovation of Main. Mr. Land expressed the possibility of the newly acquired Police Jury buildings being used temporarily

instead should Admin staff need a place to go during the renovation. Ms. Moore inquired also about the money set aside for the renovations to which Mr. Waren stated the board was trying to get the costs of Main renovations down to a level the Police Jury found acceptable which would also allow for the needs of the Carver Branch to be addressed.

President Cooper asked if the Board wished to go ahead and make a motion to move forward with Mr. Land beginning preparations to renovate Main Branch. A motion was made by Mr. Waren and seconded by Mr. Wright to move forward with the renovation of Main Branch contingent upon Mr. Land presenting renovations under cost. The motion was passed with all in favor.

Ms. Moore then requested that the board consider putting Carver Branch back on the table to be discussed. Mr. Bratton stated the Board would meet with Mr. Brad Cammack, OPPJ Treasurer, concerning needs of Carver-McDonald Branch.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:12pm on a motion by Mr. Waren, seconded by Mr. Wright, with all voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted

Nancy Green, Secretary

Betty Ward-Cooper, President