

# **Ouachita Parish Public Library**

## **Board of Control**

### **Minutes**

**December 8, 2022**

The Ouachita Parish Library Board of Control Meeting was held on Thursday, December 8, 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; Mr. Wyman Mardis; Mr. Larry Bratton, ex-officio member; Mrs. Misti Cordell; and Mrs. Kathy Craig. Mrs. Alex Webre was absent. Also attending were Mr. Brad Cammack, OPPJ Treasurer; Mr. Jay Mitchell, OPPJ Assistant District Attorney; Ms. Nancy Green, OPPL Acting Director; Mrs. LaKeisha Bosworth, OPPL Assistant Director; and Ms. Casie Castle, OPPL Business Manager.

The meeting to order at 12:06pm and Mr. Waren gave the invocation.

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

President Cooper welcomed guest Mrs. Melissa Saye from the Children's Museum. Mrs. Saye shared that the museum is working with a company called Luci Creative to build a new space for the Children's Museum in Forsythe Park and presented the board with the idea of somehow partnering with the Ouachita Parish Public Library to include reading areas in each space of the new building. Mr. Waren questioned Mrs. Saye as to what a partnership with the library would look like and suggested the possibility of library staff coming to the museum 3 days a week to present programs. Mr. Waren also suggested that Mrs. Saye meet with Ms. Green and Mrs. Bosworth to get ideas for the partnership. President Cooper asked if the Children's Museum had any partnerships with local schools. Mrs. Saye stated that the museum does STEM activities with schools and about 30,000 to 35,000 of their annual visitors are children on school trips. Mr. Cammack inquired about the admission price to the museum, and Mrs. Saye answered it was \$6 for ages 1 and up. Mrs. Saye then discussed the new location for the museum and the possibility of having an outdoor education area. Mrs. Saye thanked the board for allowing her to present her idea of partnering with the library.

President Cooper called for any public comments. There were none.

The minutes from the previous meeting held on November 10, 2022, were approved on a motion by Mrs. Cordell, seconded by Mr. Bratton with all present voting in favor of approval.

The President called for Ms. Green to review OPPL's monthly Statistical, Financial, and Personnel Reports from November of 2022.

The Statistical Report was presented with note that Physical Circulation showed an increase from this time last year. Also noted was that overall year-to-date statistics were down; however, the library had seen an increase from October to November 2022. In-House Usage increased which showed an increase in patrons visiting the library. Ms. Green also pointed out an increase in Homework Help usage from 96 to 114 people which was significant. President Cooper noted that Ms. Green and Mrs. Bosworth's attendance at the school board to promote library services most likely was a reason for the increase in Homework Help awareness and usage.

Ms. Green noted that program attendance was almost double from this time last year. Mr. Bratton asked about the type of programs offered at the library branches specifically if there were digital literacy classes being currently offered. Ms. Green stated that laptops were being sent to different branches to host computer trainings for patrons on a rotating basis. She next discussed events the library had participated in including Health Fairs, a Veterans' Day Program, and Santa Stop. Virtual programs are also being done with local schools. Ms. Green made note that system services were usually down during the holidays. The Statistical Report was approved on a motion by Mr. Waren, seconded by Mrs. Cordell.

The Financial Report for November 2022 was presented with note that the fines collected for the year for fines had exceeded the original 2022 budget projection. Mr. Waren asked why Ms. Green thought this had occurred to which she answered that she felt more people were returning to the library as well as students were needing materials to complete assignments. She noted no major changes or things of note other than that. The Financial Report was approved on a motion by Mr. Bratton, seconded by Mrs. Craig.

There were no changes in personnel during the month of November 2022, so no motion was needed to approve a report.

#### Other Business/Discussion:

President Cooper asked for an update on the status of the possible purchase of the Stein Mart building as the future Main Branch location. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Police Jury had executed a letter of intent with the seller. There was currently a purchase agreement pending, he said, which would hopefully be complete by the end of the week. He stated that he was personally pleased with the agreement, and that there was an inspection period of 45 days that Mr. Bill Land of Land 3 Architect was taking charge of. It was Mr. Mitchell's belief that closing would most likely happen 30 days after the 45-day inspection period ended.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, January 12, 2023, at the Main Branch Library in the Louis Lock Meeting Room. The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 pm on a motion by Mr. Waren, seconded by Mrs. Craig, with all voting in favor.

Respectfully,

Betty Ward-Copper, President

Nancy Green, Secretary