

Ouachita Parish Public Library

Board of Control

Minutes

February 8, 2024

The Ouachita Parish Public Library Board of Control Meeting was held on Thursday, February 8, 2024, 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. Larry Bratton, ex-officio member; and Ms. Kathy Craig. Mr. LaMario Looney arrived late, at 12:41pm. Mr. Wyman Mardis and Ms. Misti Cordell were absent. Also attending were 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. Kathy Craig gave the invocation.

President Cooper called for any agenda changes and Ms. Green made note that Mr. Bill Land of Land 3 Architect was unable to attend the meeting, so Mr. Robert Many, also of Land 3 Architect, was attending in his place to provide updates on the new Main Branch building. The agenda with changes was approved on a motion by Ms. Craig, seconded by Mr. Waren with all in favor.

No members of the public were in attendance, however, Ms. Dilcie McDonald Green arrived late but there were no public comments.

President Cooper then called for Mr. Robert Many of Land 3 Architect to give an update on the new Main Branch building. Mr. Many stated he had brought notes from Mr. Bill Land as to the progress made on the new building. The design phase of the plans is about 75% complete but other information is needed to finish the plans such further information on the electrical mapping of the building. Land 3 is also working with the library staff to assess furniture needs for the new building and Mr. Many stated that some of the current furniture may need to be brought to the new building to keep costs down. He noted the furniture to be reused would ideally not be in the public areas.

Mr. Many shared Mr. Land's desire for the library to go wireless but stated that the library staff would need to make that decision, which would also directly affect the kind of furniture needed for the new branch. Ms. Webre asked what the cost difference was between going wireless and

staying wired. Mr. Many stated he did not know offhand. He stated the timing of the plans to be put out to bid was at present 8 weeks.

Mr. Cammack stated that since the cubicles in the building were removed, Asbestos Abatement would need to reassess now before proceeding with the abatement. Mr. Cammack also asked Mr. Many about the existing service elevator and why a pit was needed for it when the previous owners did not have a pit. Mr. Many stated he did not have the answer to that as the service elevator had not been looked at yet. Mr. Many then referred to the possible issue with the awnings on the front of the building as they would need to be removed and Mr. Land did not have the original plans for the building and therefore did not know how the awnings were attached. This could create an unknown cost for removal. President Cooper asked if the original plans could be gotten for the building. Mr. Many answered that he did not know but would ask about it.

President Cooper asked if it was possible to get local furniture stores involved to donate furniture to the new building. Mr. Many asked if the current library furniture not reused could be donated to another library or company in need. Mr. Mitchell spoke up to reiterate that items purchased with public funds such as the library furniture could not be donated. They could either be sold for the reasonable value of the items or disposed of.

The minutes from the previous meeting held on January 11, 2024, were approved on a motion by Mr. Warren, seconded by Ms. Craig with all present voting in favor of approval.

The Statistical Report for January 2024 was presented and approved on a motion by Ms. Weber with a second by Ms. Craig.

The Financial Reports for January 2024 was presented next and was approved on a motion by Mr. Warren and second by Ms. Weber with all members voting in favor.

The Personnel Report for January 2024 was presented and approved on a motion by Ms. Webre, seconded by Mr. Warren with all present voting in favor of approval.

Ms. Green then noted that the Louisiana Library Association Conference for 2024 will be held on March 10 – 12 in Shreveport. The decision was made to reschedule the March meeting to March 7.

Ms. Green then read a press release from the library to the community thanking the community for its continued support of the Ouachita Parish Public Library.

A brief discussion followed about OPPL offering a "Library of Things" for public checkout and trying a few items for families to be able to use this summer to see if this was a viable option for the future here as other libraries have been having success with this concept.

There was no other business on the agenda.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at the Main Branch Library in the Louis Lock Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 12:52pm on a motion by Mr. Warren, seconded by Ms. Webre, with all voting in favor.

Respectfully

Ms. Betty Ward-Cooper, President

Nancy Green, Secretary