

# Ouachita Parish Public Library

## Board of Control

### Minutes

March 13, 2025

The Ouachita Parish Public Library Board of Control Meeting met on Thursday, March 13, 2025, 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. Larry Bratton, ex-officio member (arrived at 12:12pm); Ms. Misti Cordell; Ms. Alex Webre; and Ms. Kathy Craig. Mr. Wyman Mardis and Mr. LaMario Looney were absent. Also attending were 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 Cooper called the meeting to order at 12:06pm and Ms. Craig led the invocation.

There were no agenda changes, and the agenda was approved on a motion by Ms. Cordell, seconded by Ms. Webre, with all in favor.

President Cooper noted there were no guests or public comments.

Mr. Bill Land and Mr. Robert Manning were called upon to give an update on the renovation of the New Main Branch Library building located at 1000 Oliver Road. Mr. Land noted that it was time to review the new library's color selections. He also stated that, at present, there were no mandatory change orders for the project but spoke about the need to get the sprinkler system area that goes through the company in the adjacent building, as previously discussed, switched over to the library. Mr. Waren stated it would be a good idea to go ahead and do so for insurance purposes and to avoid issues in the future.

Mr. Land then talked the choice between black and nickel frames for the doors and windows of the building that was previously discussed. He noted that black frames were used on the rendering, and in discussion with Acme Glass the black frames do not show much scratching. Mr. Land stated he would check on whether the black frames tended to fade in color or not. He also discussed the cost to raise the ceiling in one area of the building that was previously brought up as a possibility by Mr. Bratton would be \$50,000. Mr. Bratton then stated that it was not worth doing for that cost. Mr. Bratton said he had looked at the ceilings at the groundbreaking for the branch held the day before, and they seemed to be high enough without needing to be raised.

Mr. Manning then presented color options for the interior of the building. He showed a rendering of the building exterior, noting the old brick which is planned to be painted a light shade of gray with darker gray accents and black framing on the windows and door frames with wood accents throughout the exterior of the building. He next presented the interior renderings using light gray walls with dark gray accents to continue the feel of the exterior color scheme. He noted accent walls would be used to give splashes of color to the interior space. He showed the board tile samples for the porcelain tile floors in a dark charcoal gray planned at the entrance and pathways of the interior. Mr. Land spoke about how the grout for the tile flooring would also be a dark color with minimal space between tiles to give a smooth appearance to the flooring. Mr. Manning stated the stacks and seating areas of the interior would be gray carpeting in various shades to create a sort of pattern throughout. He noted circular-shaped lights are also planned in various areas with black frames to draw attention to them. Several board members questioned whether a dark tiled entrance and flooring throughout would show excess dirt and water, especially when it is raining outside. Mr. Land and Mr. Manning both stated they would check the cost of a walk-off area of carpeting at the entrance to minimize the dirt and water patrons would track into the building.

Mr. Manning discussed a mural to put on the side of the IT room located in the center of the building. The room was left from the previous call center and keeping it there would be beneficial to the setup of computers and electrical wiring needed for the planned building layout. He then presented an abstract art layout of a mural that would be made of wallpaper. Several board members asked if instead of abstract art, wallpaper of pictures tied into the library could be used. Ideas of branch photos and historical photos of the library and surrounding parish were also discussed as possible options. Mr. Land then noted that a 90-day turnaround with this project would be needed to stay on track with the interior design timeframe. Mr. Manning also showed acoustic panels decorated with graphic art to be put throughout the building to help with the sound and provide splashes of color. Smaller offices and rooms will have carpet or flooring with color added to the gray for more accents. A special case for the library's collection of Clementine Hunter paintings was discussed as well with plans to place it in the Special Collections area. Wood tones throughout the library will appear on bookcases and at the base of cabinets to offer a warmer feel. The cabinet tops will be metal. Countertops for areas such as Circulation and Reference are planned to be Quartz which offers a more durable, scratch-resistant surface. Mr. Land stated that a company called KI Furniture is being looked at for bids on library furniture.

The minutes from the previous meeting held on December 12, 2024, were approved on a motion by Ms. Cordell, seconded by Ms. Webre, with all present voting in favor of approval.

The monthly reports from December 2024, January 2025, and February 2025 were then presented. The Statistical Reports for December 2024, January 2025, and February 2025 were approved on motion by Ms. Webre, seconded by Ms. Craig, with all present voting in favor of approval.

The Financial Reports for December 2024, January 2025, and February 2025 were presented and approved on a motion by Ms. Webre, seconded by Mr. Waren, with all present voting in favor of approval.

The Personnel reports for December 2024, January 2025, and February 2025 were then presented and approved on motion by Mr. Waren, seconded by Ms. Craig, with all present voting in favor of approval.

The New Business/Action portion of the meeting was presented with the request from Ms. Green that the Board ratify the approval for two IT staff members to attend the Innovative Users Group Conference in Denver, Colorado March 13-15. The travel had been discussed but not voted on at the last meeting in February due to no quorum. The travel was approved on a motion by Mr. Waren, seconded by Ms. Webre, with all present voting in favor of approval.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 2025, at the Main Branch Library. The meeting was officially adjourned at 1:23 pm on a motion by President Cooper, seconded by Ms. Cordell, with all present voting in favor.

Betty Ward-Cooper, President

Nancy Green, Secretary