

# Ouachita Parish Public Library

## Board of Control

### Minutes

May 11, 2023

Ouachita Parish Library Board of Control Meeting was held on Thursday, May 11, 2023, 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; Mrs. Alex Webre; Mrs. Misti Cordell; and Mrs. Kathy Craig. Mr. Larry Bratton, ex-officio member; and Ms. Mashie Epting 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 12:03pm and invocation was led by Mr. Waren.

There was one change to the agenda that involved Acting Director's Update. The change was approved on a motion by Mr. Waren, seconded by Ms. Webre.

President Cooper welcomed guests and asked them to introduce themselves.

President Cooper also noted that public comments were to be made on agenda items only. Other comments could be brought to the Board at the end of the meeting.

President Cooper then called for public comments on any agenda items. There were none.

Mr. Bill Roark was recognized to present information on possible location sites for a new Carver-McDonald Branch to be built in the future. He presented several sites around the current Carver-McDonald Branch. Mr. Waren suggested that a decision on the possibility of the Miller property should be made before moving forward with considering other possibilities. Mr. Roark then requested that the Board prioritize the other properties presented and list them in the order of preference that they would like him to pursue for more information.

The minutes from the March meeting were approved on a motion from Mrs. Webre and seconded by Mrs. Cordell.

The Statistical, Financial and Personnel reports for March and April were presented by Ms. Green and a new job description for Computer Assistant was brought before the Board as well. The Statistical Reports were approved on a motion by Mrs. Cordell and a second by Mrs. Craig. The Financial Reports were approved on a motion by Mrs. Weber and a second by Mr. Waren.

The Personnel Reports were approved on a motion by Mrs. Cordell with a second by Mr. Mardis.

Ms. Green then advised the Board that Hotspots were ready and would be sent to the Branches for check out the following week. She said that this new service was exciting and should provide many patrons with high-speed internet access in some of the underserved areas of the parish.

Mr. Bill Land then presented the Board with a potential floor plan and a new rendering for the outside of the new Main Branch. He noted that these plans were preliminary, but he pointed out that there would be multiple meeting rooms throughout the building and that the space designated for children and young adults would be able to accommodate so much more programming possibilities. Mr. Land indicated that more meetings would be needed in the future with Ms. Green and Mrs. Bosworth to address design needs as things move forward. President Cooper expressed her interest in attending these meetings and Mr. Waren suggested sending questions to Ms. Green to forward to Mr. Land for any design changes that the Board would like to see incorporated that would be beneficial to the library's operation.

President Cooper asked for public comments at this time and Mrs. Haneline, Mrs. Krutzer and Mrs. Napoli made suggestions about the floor plans for the new Main Branch.

Mrs. Jessica Rainwater-Grigson addressed the Board about the status of the 2 books that had been placed in restricted check out. She then requested the Board to consider removing these restrictions and placing the books back on the shelves.

Mr. Cliff Thomas addressed the Board and expressed his appreciation for the programming that is currently going on at the Carver-McDonald Branch and he also expressed his support for the construction of a new Carver-McDonald Branch.

Ms. Marie Brown addressed the Board to ask about the money that had been set aside in the past for construction of a new Carver-McDonald Branch. Mr. Cammack responded that the Ouachita Parish Public Library has been putting money aside since 2015 for renovations and repairs to the library branches across the parish. Mr. Cammack also indicated that there had never been a vote by the Ouachita Parish Library Board or the Police Jury to set aside money and budget that money for the construction of a new Carver-McDonald Branch. He stated that once the Board decides to move forward with the Carver-McDonald Branch construction and they have located and assessed the property for it, then a plan would be presented to the Ouachita Parish Police Jury for a vote to approve the designation of money to go towards the construction of a new Carver-McDonald Branch.

Mrs. Haneline addressed the Board about the process used for reconsideration of materials and restricted classification. President Cooper responded that the policies could be sent to her in an email.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:24pm on a motion by Mr. Waren with a second by Mrs. Weber.

Betty Ward-Cooper, President

Nancy Green, Secretary