

Oconee County Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting
March 26, 2012, Salem Branch (Community Center)

Danny Day, vice chair, called meeting to order, welcomed public visitors, described rules for public comments section, introduced board members.

Present: John Adams, Barbara Askew, Carol Baungarner, Bill Caster, Danny Day, Jody Gaulin, Ellis Hughes, Vicky Miller, Philip Cheney, David Warren

Public Comments (*comments are approximate, not verbatim*)

Cile Cely – need new library to be constructed. Nice block where new two-story building could be built ... Pendleton, Easley, Greenville, Brevard, NC; I'm in that Seneca library, and it is really busy

Jean Ann Cooper – against it being next to Blue Ridge Elementary. A public library is accessible to all people. Convenience to sexual predators. People walk to Seneca library, and it is busy.

Mike Walsh – Interested in downtown revitalization and feel that a new library could anchor the area

Lori Sons, architect – Shared article on how library can help connect community fabric. More people walk, bike to library.

John Martin – Would like library downtown facing Depot St. Would like to see current site to be an garden art center

Lyn Norton – Asking for an adequate library, not a Taj Mahal. We just want a building ... And it would relieve Walhalla library.

Anna Sons – Such a blessing to be able to walk to the library...sustainability. Keeping community connected.

Janie Smiley – Will building be LEEDS certified?

Regular Board Meeting

Approval of minutes John Adams moved to accept, Bill Caster seconded, all approved.

David Warren, Providence Associates -- Gave his background in working with new library construction, talked about changes in current library construction. Libraries are community centers these days.

Described how his research will happen: 3-month study; two community hearings, especially including teens. Collecting data about how Seneca library is working. Looking at different sites, functionality as well as costs.

Friends report: Barbara Askew

-Read to Me program going well...website is up. youseemore.com/Oconee

-Regional fall FOL meeting in Walhalla Sept. 21

Committee reports

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- Finance** – Turned budget on time, no significant changes in budget other than changes in SC Room -Seneca carpet passes DHEC ... But it is old.
- Policy/personnel** – No changes yet ... Heidi Holmes and Klani Green
John and Danny thanked Phillip for focus on excellent candidates
- Buildings** – Changed the nest of cords for laptops in Salem
- Community relations** – nothing to report
- Capital projects** – John Adams, Ellis Hughes, Philip Cheney, Archie Barron toured Greenwood library, 43,900 sq ft. Board has visited many, many new libraries. ... John alone has gone to 20.

Chairman's report: Lee Barrett is resigning from board because of his business pressures. Danny wants to carry over to next meeting. John moved we defer, Jody seconded, all approved.

Director's report:

- TLC contract is still under review for the hosted solution.
- Enclosure project for all AC units to protect from copper theft.
- Bills pending in SC legislature will affect all counties ... Philip encourages us to contact our legislators. County Councilman Paul Corbeil ... "If they pass this bill today would reduce taxes without providing revenue to support county-level services. Our reps need to hear this. Oconee would lose \$7 million/year."
- Legislative day --- April 25 ... to talk to our legislators.

Paul Corbeil spoke — Detention center vs new library...2009, approved the \$9 m library.... Jail...made decision to solve 30 year prob. Things have changed, new idea of jail, maybe we need only a five-year solution.

-Recommended that we position library as aid to economic development. 43 jobs at Borg Warner are unfilled because of unskilled workers. Maybe focus on how library can help develop those people in being able to do the new work. Use Greenwood, Greenville examples. Show how Library works with local businesses.

Executive session

Adjourn