

Oconee County Public Library Board of Trustees,

Minutes for meeting of Monday, July 22, 2013

Location of meeting: Salem Community Center, 5 Park Avenue, Salem , SC 5:30 p.m.

Members present: Alisa Suddeth, Bill Caster, Bruce Adelberg, Danny Day, Ellis Hughes, Holly McPheeters, Priscilla Taylor, Becky Hetherington

Members absent: Sally Long

Guests: Barb Askew, President, Friends of the Library; Robert Rainey, President, Foothills Community Foundation

Staff attending: Philip Cheney, Library Director; Dan Polk; Blair Hinson; K'Lani Green

- I. **Call to order:** Chairman Day called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. At the request of the library director, Chairman Day recognized Dan Polk as the new Salem Branch manager.
- II. **Approval of minutes:** On a motion by Bill Caster, the minutes of the May 20, 2013 Board meeting were approved.
- III. **Public comment:** none
- IV. **Friends Report** by Barb Askew: Wish lists have been submitted by all branches except the Walhalla branch. Friends will work on them the next couple of weeks. Book sales: \$1092.35 for June; \$951.61 thus far in July; YTD—nearly \$8,000.00. The movie license for the Westminster Library was renewed for two years. The Friends' Read To Me program is starting its third year; an application for grant funding for Read to Me has been made to the SC Humanities Council. Barb will attend the Tri-County Volunteer Association meeting and talk about Read to Me and volunteering. The Friends paid \$250.00 of the \$500.00 tuition for Leadership Oconee, Class of 2014; K'Lani Green will attend. Let's Talk About It starts in September and the topic is *Muslim Journeys: Points of View*. Sessions will be held on Saturdays due to the scholar's class schedule. Meredith Wickham made a presentation to the FOL Board about the needs of the Geek Committee. The next FOL meeting is scheduled for Sept 17, 2013.

Chairman Day modified the order of the agenda and moved up the discussion of the endowment for OCPL. He introduced Robert Rainey, President of the Foothills Community Foundation. Mr. Rainey presented the annual report of his organization, including the list of funds for charitable entities. He noted that the Foundation is 14 years old, is a 501(c)(3) foundation, and is one of more than 600 community foundations in the United States. It has 16 board members, all from the tri-county area. The Foothills Community Foundation administers over 75 funds, has total assets of \$11.6 million, and has distributed more than \$13 million since its inception. To Bruce Adelberg's question about management fees, Mr. Rainey responded that the fees are 1.6%. Ellis Hughes asked about whether the

Foundation is a manager or a fund raiser. Mr. Rainey responded that the Foundation is a manager. The primary benefit of membership is financial oversight and improved money management. Chairman Day mentioned that Mr. Rainey could also help find resources for donated funds, leveraging small assets to take advantage of opportunities. Ellis Hughes mentioned that the primary goal of finding an outside group to assist the Board was for fundraising, so we would still need a fundraising arm. Mr. Rainey mentioned that the Foothills Community Foundation could provide some boost to credibility.

Also discussed were capital and challenge fundraising campaigns

Bill Caster mentioned that he thought the Board was mainly setting up a foundation for capital projects, not necessarily long term. Mr. Rainey pointed out that a community endowment can help make the library better.

V. Committee Reports

Finance: Bruce Adelberg commented that his committee has no real direction, but that they do keep up with all budget and financial reports.

Policy/Personnel: No report due to absence of Mrs. Long.

Building and Grounds: Chairman Day reported that his committee had not yet had time to survey the libraries. He and Bill Caster will survey building and grounds of all branches by the next meeting. Bill Caster noted that the bi-monthly reports are a source of up-to-date information about the branches.

Community Relations: Ellis Hughes pointed out that the Miami-Dade County Library System is closing 22 locations. She wants the Board to send a letter to the editor of the *Seneca Journal* highlighting why the Seneca library site was chosen, noting that the Board is responsible for the library, not for community development, and re-highlighting the Providence Study. The Board chairman would send out the letter with appropriate suggestions and comments from the entire Board. Ellis Hughes also pointed out the need for a fulltime publicist or political operative for our fundraising efforts for the November 2014 capital project sales tax campaign. Bill Caster expressed concern that people would vote for sales tax or give money for library if the Board put the Seneca Library in a particular location. Priscilla Taylor expressed concern that the library projects were at the bottom of the list, but Chairman Day pointed out that the use of the funds raised by a capital projects sales tax have to be specified at the time of the vote.

Capital Projects: Alisa Suddeth reported no news

VI. Chairman's Report

Chairman Day referred to two recent articles, one from the *Anderson Independent*, and the other entitled *Can Libraries Survive E-book Revolution?* and pointed out that e-books won't replace libraries. He also discussed an article from the July 14, 2013 edition of the *Charleston Post and Courier* about the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce and the changes in filing for unemployment compensation, which will produce more demand for library computers. He pointed out that no one told

libraries that this was coming and there has been no money allocated for additional staff or additional computers. Mr. Day also noted that Oconee County has recently stopped taking paper applications for jobs with the County and only accepts online applications, which is another demand on library computers.

VII. Director's Report

Philip Cheney presented cost figures for Zinio, a digital magazine subscription service: The base cost is \$3,000, with an additional amount of \$2,758.26 for subscriptions, a total annual cost of \$5,758.26. He distributed copies of the library budget for FY14, and two maps produced by Lisa Simmering of the Oconee County GIS Department. The maps showed population numbers served by existing library branches and the changes that would be produced by a new South County branch library. Each Board member received a copy of the Orientation Booklet for Boards, Commissions & Council Appointed Committees, which had been approved at the July, 2013 meeting of the Oconee County Council. Mr. Cheney gave a report on the Library Director's Meeting in Columbia on Friday, July 19 at which Erica Von Nessen, the state's Unemployment Insurance Director, had discussed the filing of unemployment using library computers. He further mentioned that he had received a call from the Oconee School District about parents' use of library computers to sign up for free and reduced price meals for their children. Another issue discussed at the meeting in Columbia was the difficulty in banning disruptive patrons from public libraries in South Carolina. A committee of APLA, the directors' organization, will work on legislation to amend existing South Carolina law to create a formal process. Mr. Cheney requested that the Board approve two full-day closings for training sessions (The Board had previously approved two half-day closings in addition to the twice-a-year In-Service Days). Becky Hetherington moved that the libraries close two full days for training, the motion was seconded by Ellis Hughes and the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Old Business

Mr. Rainey's presentation was made earlier in the meeting.

IX. New Business

Bill Caster raised the issue of inviting the author Pat Conroy to an event in Oconee County. Chairman Day said he would contact Mr. Conroy to see if he would consider coming.

ADJOURN The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.