

Minutes of the Oconee County Public Library Board of Trustees' meeting

July 28, 2014, 5:30 p.m.

Walhalla Library Mezzanine

Trustees present: Chairman Danny Day, Vice Chair Ellis Hughes, Secretary Bill Caster, Rebecca Hetherington, Maria Jacobson, Marie McMahan, and Alisa Suddeth

Trustees absent: Holly McPheeters

Staff present: Philip Cheney, Director of the Library; Blair Hinson, Branch Services Librarian

Guests: Barb Askew, president, Friends of the Library; Martha Murtiashaw, member, State Library Board; John W. Adams, former Library Board member and member of the Board of the Greater Oconee Chamber of Commerce; Priscilla Taylor, former Library Board member; Jillian Lusk, Executive Director of the Greater Oconee County Chamber of Commerce; and Dr. Caren von Hippel, director of BabyRead.

Call to order: Chairman Day opened the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

- I. Approval of minutes: On a motion by Bill Caster, seconded by Ellis Hughes, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the May 24, 2014 meeting.
- II. Public Comment: None

Chairman Day decided to change the order of the agenda and proceeded to Old Business. Vice Chair Ellis Hughes reported on the Capital Project Sales Tax referendum and the actions taken by the group working to educate the public about the projects. Jillian Lusk and John Adams reported on the activities of the Greater Oconee Chamber of Commerce in support of the referendum.

Chairman Day then introduced Dr. Caren von Hippel, director of Baby Read. Dr. von Hippel distributed information about BabyRead and requested the support of Oconee County Public Library. After questions from the trustees, Chairman Day responded that the Board would examine the program and see how the Board might be able to help.

- III. Friends of the Library Report: Barb Askew, President of the Friends gave the following information: Book sales. May, 2014: \$1080.05; June: \$1144.00; July: \$2403.00; Saturday sale in July: \$728.00. The Friends are funding ½ of the Leadership Oconee County tuition for Leah Price and have fulfilled wish lists from the branch libraries, spending a total of \$3950.00. Read to Me is about to start up again. The Friends received nice thank you letters from the local VA and from the Humanities Council SC. The next Let's Talk About It, "South Carolina Sampler," will begin in September.

- IV. **Committee Reports**
 - a. **Finance:** Marie McMahan— none.
 - b. **Policy/Personnel:** Priscilla Taylor— none.
 - c. **Building & Grounds:** Bill Caster noted that he uses the bi-monthly reports to monitor problems at the branches.
 - d. **Community Relations:** Ellis Hughes introduced Branch Services Librarian Blair Hinson, who demonstrated the new library website.
 - e. **Capital Projects:** Alisa Suddeth— none.
- V. **Chairman's Report**—Chairman Day presented a letter to the South Carolina State Library asking for a waiver, since OCPL is not allocating a large enough percentage of its budget to books and other library materials. The Board authorized the Chairman to sign the waiver.
- VI. **Director's Report:** Director Cheney reported on the Better World Books' donation program, and noted that the Friends may soon become a part of this program, which will benefit both the Friends and OCPL. He also noted that all four of Seneca's part-time employees will soon be Staffmark employees.
- VII. **Old Business:** Capital Projects Sales Tax. This item was covered earlier in the meeting.
- VIII. **New Business:** Director passed around two items that had been donated to OCPL in the past: a chisel used in building Stumphouse Tunnel, and an old German Bible. He requested that the Board consider donating them to the Oconee Heritage Center. Rebecca Hetherington made a motion to donate the items to Oconee Heritage Center, which was seconded by Alisa Suddeth. The motion passed unanimously.
- IX. **The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.**