



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

May, 2024

Darlington Branch May 15, 2024

OPENING OF MEETING

- A. The meeting was called to order by President Gene Norwood, at 5:02 p.m. A quorum was met with the following members present: Barbara Carraway, Warren Arthur, Vernessia Patterson, Gene Norwood, JoAnn Lee, Gail Gandy.
- B. Member(s) absent: Bobbie Gardner, Carol Hill.
- C. The following visitor(s) attended and were recognized: Antoinette Fernandez, IT Manager; Kelly Shull, Lamar Branch Manager; and, the following members attended remotely and were recognized: Martha Brown, Hartsville Branch Manager; Lynn Anderson, Society Hill Branch Manager; Christy Lamb, Administrative Assistant.
- D. A motion was made by JoAnn Lee, seconded by Vernessia Patterson, and carried to approve the agenda.

OPEN FORUM

- A. None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. A motion was made by JoAnn Lee, seconded by Barbara Carraway, and carried to approve the March minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- A. The Library has expended just over 76% of its 2024 budget to date. Tort, 52100, and Insurance, 52000, are taken out at the end of the fiscal year, so this figure is actually slightly higher.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – The Director's report included the following:

- A. The Library's 2024 Summer Reading and Learning Program (SRLP) theme is "Adventure Begins at Your Library." Promotional materials were distributed to board members.
- B. The Hartsville Youth Services Librarian position has been filled. Jennifer Woods, a teacher at Butler Academy, was selected in March and accepted the position. Her start date is Monday, May 13th.
- C. Kristi Jeffords, Youth Services Librarian at the Darlington Branch, has resigned. Her last day will be May 24th.
- D. Interviews for the Darlington Branch Manager position are set for May 28th. There are three in-house and one outside candidate. The interview process will include a thirty minutes short essay focusing on the candidate's impressions and ideas for the Darlington Branch. Darlington area Board member Carol Hill and Tiffany Hayes, a public library consultant from the State Library are part of the interview team.

- E. The Library is offering 160 Wildflower Garden Grab-n-Go kits to children and their parents this spring to encourage them to learn about wildflowers, gardening, birds, and insects. Kits were brought for the board.

HOST BRANCH MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. As the Darlington Branch Manager's position is vacant at this time, there was no report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

- a. All light fixtures for the Darlington Branch lighting project have been received and most installed. The globe lighting selected to replace the pendant light fixtures do not provide the same level of light. Safeway Signaling was notified. It was decided the remaining globe lights would be installed and if the new lights prove to be inadequate within in the coming year, the need for more lighting will be addressed.
- b. Gail Gandy noted it is particularly dark in the far corner of the staff parking lot. As this was not included in the lighting project for the Darlington Branch. Library Director Jimmie Epling will explore options to address the issue.
- c. With the majority of the lighting work complete, The Flooring Connection of Conway, SC was contacted to discuss a start date for the floor. During the meeting with the flooring representative on Tuesday, May 21st a start date will be set.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET** – County Council at its May 6th meeting held the mandatory public hearing on the budget. As part of the Council's agenda, the budget was brought before Council for its required "Second Reading" and vote. After a short discussion, it was passed with two revisions that will not significantly impact the Library.

- B. **BOARD OFFICERS NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION REMINDER** – The Board voted at its March meeting to select officers at its July meeting.

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING

- A. **ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS** – The Library Board will select officers at its July meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

REQUESTS/COMMENTS – MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

- A. Warren Arthur addressed the Board and Director about his concern regarding obscene materials in the Library's collection.

- a. He distributed photocopies of the South Carolina statues regarding the distribution of pornographic materials and the penalties and fees if convicted.
- b. He noted there was a complaint regarding an offensive material/books at the Hartsville Branch. He did not know the name of the book to which he referred. His concern was the Director took no action on the customer's complaint.
- c. Library Director Jimmie Epling stated a Request for Reconsideration was received from a Hartsville customer concerning the book "I Am Jazz." It is a biography for children regarding a girl who transitioned to a boy. It was reviewed by the Director and Hartsville Branch Manager Martha Brown. The request noted this 2014 book was found at the Hartsville Library by the customer. The review revealed we have a copy in the Darlington Branch, but our Hartsville copy has been missing since 2019 and had circulated 14 times. A response was sent to the customer that after reviewing the book that it did not meet the legal criteria for "prurient" or obscene and would not be removed from the collection. The customer was informed the complaint would be taken to the Board for review upon request. The customer stated the complaint need not go to the Board.
- d. The Library's only copy of the book was presented to the Board at the meeting. The Board members reviewed the book and determined that while the topic might be controversial for some in the community, it is not prurient, obscene, or inappropriate for the library's collection.
- e. Mr. Arthur noted he has served fourteen years as a Board member. He stated his greatest accomplishment was his came in March 2017 with his opposition an agency's partnership request to place a type of dispenser in the Library's restrooms. "Things have changed since I joined the Board," he told the members present.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Gail Gandy, seconded by Gene Norwood, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Christy Lamb, Administrative Assistant