

Stewart County Library Board Meeting – Summary of Minutes
November 14, 2024– 1:00 pm
Parks Memorial Public Library

In attendance:

Nea Permenter – Chair
Bobbi Boynton – Vice Chair
Martha McCoy
Susan Ramsey
Crystal Townsend
Amy Stankus

Also: Alan Harkness, Director, CVL
Doris Spinks-Russell, Parks Branch Manager
Lizette Cruz, Administrative Specialist, CVL
Naomi Richardson, Business Owner, candidate for SCLB
Jennifer Boling, former board member

- I. Call to order: Chair Permenter called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.
- II. Chair Permenter asked the board to review the minutes from the May 23, 2024, meeting. Martha McCoy made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, and Bobbi Boynton seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous by Permenter, Boynton, McCoy, Ramsey, Townsend and Stankus.
- III. Public Comment: There were no public comments. Chair Permenter presented her guest, Naomi Richardson. Richardson would like to be considered for the position on the board opening when Permenter's term ends December 2024. Every welcomed her to the meeting.
- IV. Treasurer's Report
Branch Manager Doris Spinks-Russell presented the treasurer's report. The budget balance as of October 31st, 2024, is \$20,601.68. Parks Memorial Public Library has received a grant of \$3, 526.81 from Sumter Electric. This money is in the account until such time as the renovation begins through the state grant. Part of the grant money was also rewarded for a new security monitoring system. Permenter made a motion to add a vote to approve the quote from Columbus Fire & Safety of \$1,720.00 to install a new monitoring system. Boynton made a motion approving adding this item to the agenda. Ramsey seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved by Permenter, Boynton, McCoy, Ramsey, Townsend and Stankus.
- V. Director's Report
Director Alan Harkness presented the director's report. Director Harkness invited all board members and prospective board members to attend a system wide library board training that CVL will be hosting on Saturday, January 25, 2025 from 9AM to noon at the newly renovated South Columbus Public Library. Breakfast will be provided for participants.

Deputy Director Lundeen resigned in September. Director Harkness is taking over that work load until such time that the CVL is able to fill that position. Director Harkness introduced everyone to a collaboration with GPLS called the Palace Project. It is a large database available to CVL patrons with e-books and other great resources.

The Muscogee Library Foundation will be having their annual fundraiser, Cocktails & Comedy, on November 14th, 2024. The comedian this year is Andrew Stanley, son of the famous preacher, Charles Stanley.

VI. Local Library Report

Manager Spinks-Russell presented the local library report. Chair Yoga is still going strong every Tuesday and Thursday. Unfortunately, due to issues with hiring enough bus drivers, the local schools are unable to bring the children to the library to participate in the Money for Kids Financial Literacy program. Manager Spinks-Russell will be asking the local school district to her allow her to bring the program directly to the classroom instead.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was none.

VIII. New Business

i. **Approve library hours of operation change.**

Stankus made a motion to approve the change of the Park Memorial Public Library's hours of operation as presented by Manager Spinks-Russell, and McCoy seconded. The vote in favor was unanimous by Permenter, Boynton, McCoy, Ramsey, Townsend and Stankus. The hours will effective as of January 1st, 2025.

ii. **Appoint and approve a new chair.**

After some discussion, Amy Stankus volunteered to serve as chair of the Stewart County Library Board, once Chair Permenter's term ends in December of 2024. Boynton made a motion to approve Stankus as the new chair of the Stewart County Library Board, term beginning in January of 2025. Ramsey seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved by Permenter, Boynton, McCoy, Ramsey, Townsend and Stankus.

iii. **Approval to spend \$1,720.00 of the Sumter Electric Grant to install a new security monitoring system.**

McCoy made the motion to approve spending \$1,720.00 of the Sumter Electric Grant to install a new security monitoring system. Ramsey seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous by Permenter, Boynton, McCoy, Ramsey, Townsend and Stankus.

iv. **Motion to add item to the agenda.**

Stankus made a motion to add a vote to preapprove Naomi Richardson to fill the vacancy on the board when Permenter's term ends December 31, 2024. McCoy seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved by Permenter, Boynton, McCoy, Ramsey, Townsend and Stankus.

v. **Vote to preapprove Naomi Richardson to fill the vacancy on the board when Permenter's term ends December 31, 2024, contingent on the approval of the county.**

Ramsey made the motion to preapprove Naomi Richardson to fill the vacancy on the board when Permenter's term ends December 31, 2024, contingent on the approval of the county. McCoy seconded the motion. Motion was approved by Permenter, McCoy, Ramsey, Townsend and Stankus. Boynton abstained.

The next Stewart County Library Board meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM.