

Central Arkansas Library System
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 29, 2018
Main Library Board Room

Board members in attendance were Bob Brown, Annette Herrington, Marian Berry, Nancy Rousseau, Sarah French, John Bush, Stephanie Gibson Branton, Andre Guerrero, Mike Berg, and Marilyn Porter. Sophia Said, Kelly Moss, and Sheila Wright were absent.

Staff members in attendance were Nate Coulter, Lisa Donovan, Jackie Patel, Cathy Sanders, David Stricklin, Carol Coffey, Brad Mooy, Adam Bearden, Nathan James, Jo Spencer, Madelyn Ganos, Linda Ellis, and Elizabeth Newbern.

Action Items

1. Minutes

Brown moved to approve the February minutes with corrections. Herrington seconded, and they were approved unanimously.

2. Financial Report

Herrington reported total assets as of February 28, 2018 are \$113,337,302 and net loss of \$2,012,301. She reported that tax collections were up by 10% which is in part due to the continued collection of delinquent taxes.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Herrington moved to accept the financial report and file it for audit. Branton seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

3. Approval of State Library Allocation for MLS Grant

Donovan requested the Board's approval to submit an application for an Arkansas State Library (ASL) scholarship on behalf of Deidre Scott who currently works as a youth programmer at Fletcher Library and is working on her MLS at the University of Oklahoma.

Porter moved to approve the request to submit an ASL scholarship application on behalf of Deidre Scott. Brown seconded, and the request was approved unanimously.

4. Approval of Expense Sharing Agreement for Amy Sanders Library

Coulter asked for approval from the Board to sign a written agreement that had been drawn up between the City of Sherwood and the Central Arkansas Library System (CALs) to share the expenses of running the newly opened facility, the Amy Sanders Library. The City of Sherwood owns the property that houses the Sanders Library, instead of CALs owning the building outright. The agreement states that CALs will pay the first \$25,000 of annual operating costs necessary to maintain the facility—including grounds

keeping, landscaping, housekeeping, and general maintenance—and the City of Sherwood agrees to pay 80 percent of any large expenditure (expenditures exceeding \$2,500) that may be incurred. The City of Sherwood will also be responsible for implementing pest control measures, fire alarm and monitoring, and utilities costs.

Berg moved to approve the request. Rousseau seconded, and the request was approved unanimously.

Information Items

1. Director's Report

Coulter stated that March started with the opening of the new Amy Sanders Library in Sherwood on March 9. Amy Sanders, the library's namesake, attended alongside several of her great grandchildren. The first FOCAL (Friends of the Central Arkansas Library) Book Sale also occurred the weekend of March 9, and it was very successful and a "spectacle" to behold. The previous week, Cathy Sanders teamed up with Kathy Webb to organize student volunteers from Central High School to repaint the murals on 2nd Street across the Main Library parking lot and next to the I-30 ramp. It was a very quick and successfully organized endeavor.

Coulter called on Mooy to make announcements about the Arkansas Literary Festival that is scheduled for April 26 to 29. He said that the Fest this year will feature more than 75 presenters and 75 programs. There are approximately 50 sponsors/in kind donors, and he has filled some 140 volunteer slots, with some folks doing double or triple duty. He added that there are 19 WITS (Writers in the Schools) visits scheduled to date and 480 free books will be given to students. He said that there are already over one hundred tickets reserved for the Sebastian Junger event and Classic in Context event. Mooy said that there are numerous authors coming, including Bill Worthen, Gilbert King, Carina Chocano, Carmen Maria Machado, Bennet Sims, Darcy Pattison, Monica Clark Robinson, Michelle Kuo, Salicrow (the psychic), Kory Stamper, and more than 60 additional presenters. He added that event schedules will appear online on April 2 and in print two weeks before the festival is scheduled.

Coulter called on Donovan to provide an update on the social workers in the library. Donovan announced that after some consultation with staff who have expressed vulnerability and fear of some library patrons, CALS has begun a program to have social work intern placement here at Main. There are currently three interns on staff that can assist public service staff with the best way to handle some of the more disruptive patrons that need more assistance. Donovan said that the interns help these patrons apply for birth certificates and IDs, apply for jobs, create instruction books with maps to local services where they can receive assistance, interact with security and public service workers, and help distribute meals in the teens' and children's sections of the library. Donovan added that CALS sent her to attend the biannual meeting of the Public Library Association (PLA) and that CALS's social workers program is very much in line with services that other public libraries are offering to patrons. Porter commented that this program seems great and that next steps would be to form community partnerships to further facilitate this type of aid.

Coulter said that CALS has recently joined the Urban Libraries Council, which he hoped would facilitate further development of programs like the social work internship program. He added that CALS has also

been involved with facilitating a series of Community Dialogue Luncheons to create a platform to discuss issues that the city faces and to enumerate possible solutions.

Coulter handed off to Sanders who announced that there will be several CALS events in the coming weeks. She said the Maumelle Ribbon Cutting will take place Friday, March 30. The Milam WWI Memorial Tree Dedication will be Saturday, March 31. In April, CALS Con will come to the Main Campus Downtown on Saturday, April 7. Nathan James added that CALS Con is a daylong convention where people can discuss specific genres and fandoms. Sanders reiterated that the Arkansas Literary Festival will wrap up the big events for CALS in April.

2. Building Report

Bearden stated that Sherwood's Amy Sanders Library is up and running nicely after its opening earlier this month. He reiterated that Maumelle's grand opening will be tomorrow and that all construction, including the parking lot which was recently paved, is ready for patrons. He said that CALS is still in the process of finalizing the details to open a Jimmy's Serious Sandwiches in the Cox Building, but it is still planned to open in time for the Arkansas Literary Festival.

3. Statistical Report

Coffey reported that most February usage continued down, due in large part to the closures of two of our busier branches, Maumelle and Sherwood. Both of those branches are now open, and CALS does not anticipate any more closings soon. This should allow CALS to get a more accurate sense of where its usage stands. Coffey said that the Main Library's attendance/door count numbers were also affected by the failure of the door counter, which was down for six days before it was replaced by the Maintenance department.

Coffey said the total number of programs offered in February was up by 4% over 2017 and attendance was up by 11%. She stated that growth in Young Adult programming contributed to that increase. She added that staff members who are notaries performed 470 free notarizations for patrons in February. CALS is one of the few places where community members can get notary services for free. Some banks are sending customers to CALS instead of providing the service themselves. Coffey noted that the Digital Branch, or downloadable services, continues to be our most heavily used branch regarding checkouts. Downloads were up 17% over February 2017.

4. Committee Report

There were no committee reports presented at this meeting.

5. Butler Center Report

Stricklin stated that April's Legacies & Lunch will be on April 9 at noon in the Darragh Center with State Capitol historian David Ware talking about the new edition of his book *It's Official: The Real Stories behind Arkansas's State Symbols*, published by Butler Center Books.

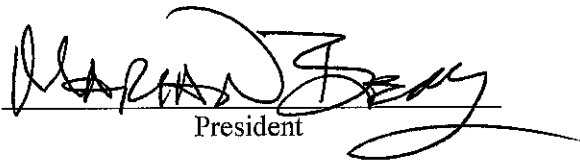
He said that Arkansas Sounds will feature R&B and hip-hop artist Sean Fresh and his band in Ron Robinson Theater on April 13 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are available for \$10 at www.ArkansasSounds.org.

April's free Sounds in the Stacks performance will be by the Dogtown Ukulele Band at Terry Library on April 19 at 6:30 p.m. Stricklin added that there will be a special second Arkansas Sounds event on Thursday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m. in Ron Robinson Theater with the Queen of Rockabilly, Wanda Jackson, a member of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and her band. Tickets are \$20 and are available at the Arkansas Sounds website. This show is in conjunction with the Arkansas Literary Festival. Jackson will speak on Friday, April 27 about her autobiography *Every Night Is Saturday Night: A Country Girl's Journey to The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame*.

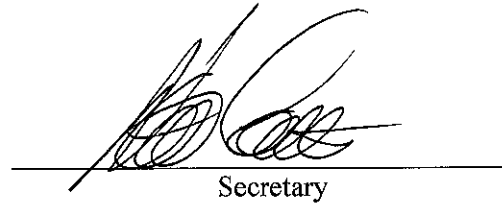
6. Other

Sanders and Nathan James introduced the new CALS branding and logo to the Board. Sanders described the logo as a column and shows that the logo provides a lot of versatility. Sanders and Nathan James announced that the new branding was going to be rolled out to CALS staff shortly, but they were excited to be able to unveil the ideas to the Board first.

Berry moved to adjourn. Rousseau seconded, and the meeting dispersed.



President



Secretary