

Central Arkansas Library System
Board of Trustees Meeting
February 20, 2020
The Bookstore at Library Square – 3rd Floor Meeting Room

Board members in attendance were Nancy Rousseau, Annette Herrington, Stacey McAdoo, Marian Berry, Sheila Wright, Brandon Grice, Sarah French, John Bush, Kelly Moss, and Stephanie Gibson-Branton. Bob Brown, Marlynn Porter, and Andre Guerrero were absent.

Staff members in attendance were Jo Spencer, Nate Coulter, Carol Coffey, Nathan James, Mark Chirst, Lisa Donovan, Lance Ivy, Tameka Lee, Rosslyn Elliott, Pam Rudkin, David Stricklin, Kay Kay DeRossette, Kate Matthews, and Elizabeth Newbern.

Also in attendance was Nathania Sawyer, private citizen.

Action Items

1. Approval of Minutes

Herrington asked the Board to approve the January Minutes with submitted corrections.

Wright moved to approve the January Minutes. Rousseau seconded the motion and the Minutes were approved unanimously.

2. January Financials

Grice reported that as of January 31, 2020, CALS assets totaled \$118,639,299 with net losses of \$745,098. He noted that tax collection was down for the month. CALS has been told that is because there is still \$500,000 that are expected to come in for February that has not yet been processed.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Grice moved to submit the January Financials for audit. Wright seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

3. CALS Staff Solar Recommendation

Coulter said that based on the discussions from last months meeting and further conversations with Entegry; Jason Carter, CALS attorney for this matter; and several staff members, Coulter was not confident that there will not be significant regulatory changes in the field. Based on this understanding, CALS administrative staff did not recommend that the Board approve signing onto a 20-year solar contract at this time, but instead recommended waiting another month or two before revisiting the idea.

No motion was needed for this issue, since the staff recommendation was to continue to wait before considering further action.

4. Approval for Summer Meals Program

Kay Kay DeRossette, program coordinator for the Be Mighty Program, announced that in 2019, CALS served 58,000 meals across all of its locations. Be Mighty also came to the Board last year to ask if CALS could be a USDA meal sponsor at Children's Library during Spring Break.

This year the Be Mighty program wants to have a pilot program at Dee Brown Library, where CALS will directly sponsor the USDA meal program for the entire summer. This will give CALS more direct control over all the pieces of meal service. Equal Heart will continue to be the sponsor at all CALS other locations during the summer. DeRossette asks that the Board approve this proposal to function as a USDA meal sponsor for the summer at Dee Brown.

Berry moved to approve the proposal for CALS to sponsor the USDA meal program at Dee Brown Library. Wright seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

5. Update to Policy 401

Nathan James said that following CALS policy change announcement that came out earlier this month there had been some strong reactions from a few library patrons and from other library directors in the Central Arkansas area. However, one thing that came to CALS attention was that the policy wording did not allow an exemption for educators, only students. CALS staff feels that changing the policy wording to include students and educators will be more inclusive and is in line with CALS's mission to promote literacy in our region. James asks that the Board approve this language change in policy 401.

Gibson-Branton moved to approve the proposal to update Policy 401. French seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Information Items

1. Marketing Report

Lee said that she would keep the report brief this month, but wanted to point out some upcoming events:

- Angie Maxwell, author of *The Long Southern Strategy*, would be speaking on Thursday, February 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ron Robinson Theater. This lecture is the Maurice Smith Lecture in the CALS speaker series.
- Saturday, February 22, CALS will be celebrating its 110th anniversary with a party from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in The Galleries at Library Square.

- In preparation for the Six Bridge Book Festival, CALS will be hosting a Battle of the Book Boyfriends. Every library visitor is encouraged to fill out a bracket and vote each week for the final winner. Visitors who submit a filled-out bracket by Friday, February 28 will be entered to win *Author! Author!* tickets and free signed book copies at the end of the competition.

Lisa Donovan, stepping in for Ellen Samples, said that Youth Services had a few upcoming programs of note:

- CALS Con, an event celebrating fandoms, will take place on Saturday, March 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Main Library and Ron Robinson Theater.
- CALS recently won a Community Change Grant, which CALS will use to install a Story Walk around the Children's Library in the spring.

Christ announced several upcoming events for adults and families:

- Tim O'Brien's keynote speech for the Big Read Grant will take place on Saturday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the Ron Robinson Theater.
- CALS, in a partnership with Pulaski County, is helping the U.S. Census Bureau to encourage 2020 Census Participation at all locations.
- Announced that Jaqueline Woodson, bestselling author of *Red at the Bone*, will be speaking at the 17th annual Six Bridges Book Festival on Sunday, April 26

2. Director's Report

Coulter noted that most of what he has to report is included in the written document passed out at the beginning of the meeting. However, he did have a few other things of note. He was sad to report a recent death outside of CALS Williams Library. Video tape from the location showed that the woman in question had fallen outside the library. Staff were unaware of the fallen woman initially. She was also accompanied by a companion, but this person did not notify anyone of the fallen woman's condition.

He encouraged everyone to attend the Maurice Smith Lecture that evening, featuring Angie Maxwell.

He added that one new development not included in the report was that there had been an expansion of Early Voting site available to Pulaski County residents this year, which included two new CALS library locations: Fletcher Library and Children's Library.

3. Other

Herrington asked the Board if they had preferences for their summer meeting dates. The Board members indicated that meeting in July and August would have the best guarantee of attendance, since more people are already on vacation in June. The Board members also determined that December 10 would be the meeting date for the last meeting of the year.

Herrington called the meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Annette Herrington
President

[Signature]
Secretary