

Central Arkansas Library System
Board of Directors Meeting
February 25, 2021
Zoom Video Call

Board members in attendance were Nancy Rousseau, Mandy Gill, Audrey Evans, Bob Brown, Stacey McAdoo, Marian Berry, Stephanie Gibson-Branton, Brandon Grice, Marilyn Porter, Andre Guerrero, and John Bush. Karama Neal and Kelly Moss were absent.

Staff members in attendance were Nate Coulter, Jo Spencer, Lisa Donovan, Nathan James, Lance Ivy, Pam Rudkin, Tameka Lee, David Stricklin, Joe Hudak, Mark Christ, Ellen Samples, Polly Deems, Carol Coffey, Kate Mathews, Kay Kay DeRossette, and Elizabeth Newbern.

Also in attendance was Joe Flaherty, reporter for the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

Action Items

1. Approval of January Minutes

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

Guerrero moved to approve the January Minutes as corrected. Evans seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

2. January Financials

Grice reported that as of January 31, 2021, CALS assets totaled \$104,740,758 with net losses of 780,992. He noted that parking lot incomes was less than usual for this time of year and may be something to keep an eye on. He said tax receipts are also down, but they looked normal compared to January of last year.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Grice moved to file the January Financials for audit. Gibson-Branton seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Sustainability Policy

Joe Hudak, Head of the Main Library, said that the Sustainability Policy was created as part of the work the Green Team members and our sustainability work that CALS has done in consultation with Entegrity. He said that the Board had been sent the draft of the Board Policy and the accompanying Administrative Policy. The policy addresses three major ways that CALS plans to address sustainability concerns: through operations, education efforts, and evaluation.

Hudak thanked Kay Kay DeRossette and Elizabeth Newbern for their help drafting the policy and now asks the Board members to consider it for approval.

Brown moved to approve the Sustainability Policy as written. Berry seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Information Items

1. Director's Report

Coulter said that he submitted his report ahead of the meeting, but wanted to highlight a few things:

- *Sherwood Woman of the Year* - Ginann Swindle, branch manager at Sanders Library in Sherwood was recently named Sherwood woman of the year. She was nominated by the library's namesake Amy Sanders who is a previous winner of the Sherwood Woman of the year. CALS is really proud of Ginann!
- *CALS Hires Rock It! Lab Coordinator* - Coulter asked Joe Hudak, head of Main, to speak briefly about our new Rock It! Lab Coordinator Leah Patterson. Hudak thanked, Coulter and noted that Patterson was not able to join the call, since she had a Entrepreneurship Program at the same time. He said he has been impressed with how quickly Patterson has taken to the job. Patterson comes to CALS with a wide breadth of experience in multiple fields. Her office is currently located in the Cox Building and she reports to Hudak; Patterson will attempt to join us on next month's call for a formal introduction.
- *Staff Promotion* - Coulter said that he wanted to note that Kay Kay DeRossette has recently been promoted to Grant Coordinator for CALS. Previously, she worked as the Program Coordinator for Be Mighty and was on the ground to secure multiple grants and opportunities for the program to make it very successful over the last two years.
- *Count Up Math Tutoring Program* - Coulter said that in his recent talks with Savannah Herrera, they have received very positive preliminary feedback from both tutors and students for this program. There has been a great deal of interest and CALS is working to expand it.
- *Personal History Collection Project* - Coulter said that the Roberts Library staff have created personal history collection kits that are in circulation at all of our locations. These kits give patrons the opportunity to collect oral history of their families and are given information on how to save these documents. *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* reporter Rachel Herzog recently wrote an article on this that includes more detail.
- *Pathway to Freedom* - Coulter did reach out recently to Scott McLane from Pathway to Freedom to reconnect with them about what CALS can do to support the work they are doing to help incarcerated individuals reintegrate into society. They currently have no room for more physical materials, although there is certainly a need if they can find the space. However, Coulter said there may be a possibility of working with McLane to find ways to place inmates in work release programs through CALS Landscaping Department. That possibility is still be discussed.

- *Snow Storm Last Week* – Coulter wanted to thank the hard work CALS Maintenance staff put in to get CALS back up and running after last week's storm. They went above and beyond. Notably, a staff member was notified of a leaking outside faucet that needed to be turned off; he ran over to turn it off before it froze and caused problems.

In relation to Coulter's written report, Brown asked if there was a need to reallocate funds dedicated to collection purchasing since there is a rising popularity in digital and A/V materials versus traditional physical books. He noted that currently physical materials appear to take a larger portion of the budget. Nathan James said that this is something that he and the collection development staff have been talking about and watching closely. We have been more conservative about our acquisitions over the last year. He did note that popularity of digital materials in particular has been gaining for year, but probably did jump more over this last year due to the pandemic.

Guerrero said that while he appreciated this consideration, he did want CALS to be cautious about just using usage statistics to guide purchasing. There is still a need and desire for physical books in the community. James said that this is true and that we are using a different method to guide these decisions that we traditionally have and that has helped us look beyond just numbers. There are no plans to stop physical book purchasing, but it may be reduced somewhat in order to prioritize strategic considerations.

2. Other

Rousseau noted three things she wanted to make the CALS Board aware of:

- If Board members have not yet visited the Galleries at Library Square, they should. They did a great job of making a beautiful space to display art, jewelry, and books for sale there. She also applauded the hiring of Debra Wood, who is an old friend.
- Rousseau was contacted by the highly esteemed Dr. Irving Studen to participate in a summit with 50 other countries to see how educators have been affected by and learned from the pandemic. She noted it was an honor to be included.
- She recently reached out to Jay Barth and Senator Elliott who are both looking at international strategies to increase civic awareness. Barth wrote an article recently about this that discusses things in greater detail.

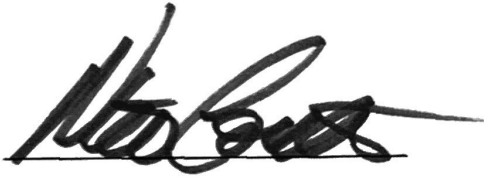
Brown wanted to applaud Guy Lancaster and the other CALS staff responsible for the recent *Race, Rage, and Resistance* Program. Coulter said that Heather Zbinden was one of the people who aided Lancaster in putting on that program with Stephanie Harp and Kwami Abdul-Bey.

McAdoo also noted that she has been really excited to work with CALS and Ellen Samples in particular on the *Lift Every Voice* Poetry Workshop. It has been so fun and she is sad to see this coming to end later this month.

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Rousseau asked for a motion that the meeting be adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Porter moved to adjourn the meeting. Bush seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

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Secretary

A cursive handwritten signature that reads "Nancy Rousseau", written in black ink.

President