

Central Arkansas Library System  
Board of Directors Meeting  
August 26, 2021, at noon  
Virtual Meeting: Zoom Video Call

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

Staff in attendance were Nate Coulter, David Stricklin, Jo Spencer, Lance Ivy, Joe Hudak, Nathan James, Carol Coffey, Mark Christ, Eliza Borné, Kay Kay DeRossette, Ellen Samples, Nathan Smith, Polly Deems, Jasmine Zandi, Kate Matthews, Lisa Donovan, and Elizabeth Newbern.

Also in attendance were Joe Flaherty, reporter from the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette; Kyle Elmore, Director at BKD; and Don Evans, representative for the Coalition of Neighborhood Libraries.

### **Action Items**

#### **1. Approval of the June Minutes**

Rousseau asked the CALS Board to approve the June Minutes as corrected.

Grice moved to approve the June Minutes as corrected. Gibson-Branton seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

#### **2. Approval of the June & July Financials**

Grice reported that as of June 30, 2021, CALS assets totaled \$105,695,852 with net loss of \$833,129.

As of July 31, 2021, CALS assets totaled \$104,668,812 with net losses of \$1,118,912. There was nothing out of the ordinary to report for either June or July. CALS is still expecting tax collections to be up 3 percent for the year, and as of August they are up 7.3 percent over August the previous year.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Grice moved to approve the June and July minutes and have them filed for audit. It was approved unanimously.

#### **3. Presentation and Approval of 2020 CALS Audit**

Grice introduced Kyle Elmore, Director of BKD, to present the CALS 2020 Audit to the Board. Elmore thanked Grice for the introduction. He noted that the audit this year was conducted

remotely and that all the Board members should have received a copy of the 2020 Audit Report and the Management Letter. He said that the audit included a clean unmodified opinion.

Elmore said the only significant item to point out is that there is a new standard required to be adopted by CALS this year. It is related to the pension plans; CALS is now considered a fiduciary for those funds, so there are some additional statements related to the pension plans included in the audit report this year. He said the Management Letter also mentions some recommendations related to cyber security that it includes with all clients. He noted that Coulter addressed this in the Finance Committee meeting, but CALS has robust cyber security protocols in place especially after the hack back in 2018.

The financials denote records up to December 31, 2020. He noted that the numbers shown might not reflect what you recall from the monthly financials reports from 2020; that is because the CALS Foundation is included in the numbers that are reported in the 2020 Audit. He said that CALS assets did decrease some, but it was mainly due to depreciation. On the income statement, it won't look that different from previous years because although there was a reduction in total revenues there was also a reduction in total expenses, which balanced out over the year.

Elmore said that BKD is ready to finalize the audit with Board approval.

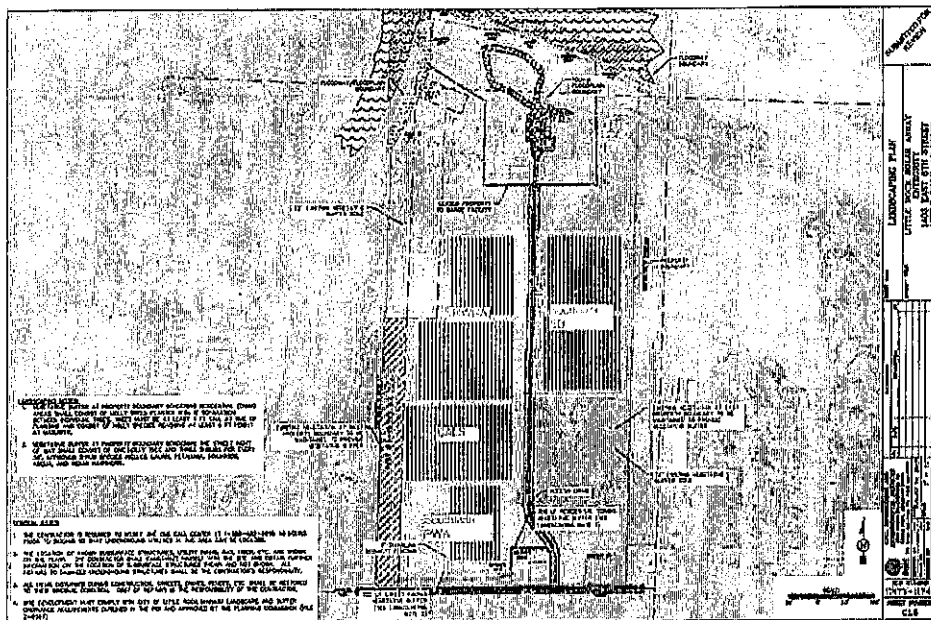
On behalf of the Finance Committee, Grice recommended that the Board approve the CALS 2020 audit draft as presented. It was approved unanimously.

## Information Items

### 1. Director's Report

Coulter noted that he submitted a written report to the Board ahead of the meeting, but wanted to highlight a few other things:

- **Partnership with Jacksonville North Pulaski School District** - Coulter noted that Dr. Owoh at the Jacksonville North Pulaski School District has partnered with CALS Nixon Library in Jacksonville to help promote literacy. Dr. Owoh is doing a virtual story time called *Titan Tales with Dr. Owoh* every week and encourages students to check out library resources to support the development of their reading skills. Coulter said there was a promotional video with Dr. Owoh and Nixon Manager Shya Washington to educate the community about the partnership.
  
- **Off-site Solar Array** - Coulter asked Lance Ivy, Director of Operations, to give the Board an update on the solar array project they approved last year that is being installed off-campus to provide an off-set for CALS electricity costs. Ivy said that Entegriy finally purchased a parcel of land off Fourche Dam Pike (pictured below). CALS's array is being built on a plot alongside several other organizations. He expects that it will be fully operational in early 2022 and CALS will begin to benefit from the \$25,000 to \$30,000 in estimated energy savings.



- **Six Bridges Book Festival** – Coulter asked Mark Christ, Head of Adult Programming, to speak briefly about the festival. Christ said that the festival will take place from October 21 through October 31. While there were hopes to have a hybrid festival this year, due to the rising COVID-19 numbers in the state, they will be completely virtual again this year. Christ added that a full list of attending authors can be found on the Six Bridges Book Festival website. Evans asked if CALS could help clarify the difference between the Six Bridges Presents and the Book Festival. She noted confusion on her part on the difference. Christ said he did understand that confusion and he would work on doing a better job of making a distinction between the festival events and the Six Bridges Presents series presented by the festival in other times of the year.
  
- **Fundraising Update** - Coulter said that in addition to the Windgate Grant that CALS just received, there were other grants in process. He invited Director of Resource Development Eliza Borné to speak briefly about them. Borné said she appreciated his kind words about the Windgate grant. It was a group effort that helped secure funds for an arts program and adding staff to help us continue our work to bridge digital literacy gaps in our community. She said it has been a busy grant season so far, but they have already been approved to receive the emergency funds from the State Library for \$262K that will help purchase equipment, collection materials, and fill other funding gaps. She noted that CALS is also working with the city to secure funding for the Jonesboro Drive Bridge project, which will help improve the walkability near the Hillary Rodham Clinton Library and Learning Center. CALS is working through the final pieces of that planning project now.

- **Upcoming Millage Election** – Coulter invited Don Evans, a representative of the Coalition of Neighborhood Libraries, to speak to the Board about the work they are doing to prepare for the upcoming Millage Election on November 9. Don Evans thanked Coulter for the introduction and said that the coalition is made up of a group of volunteers that are working with Robert Coon, political consultant from Impact Management, to learn about how the millage election is perceived and promote the library in the community. Evans indicated the library is in a great spot, it is generally held in very high esteem and the Coalition has not had to raise extra funds to pay for the consulting fees; he does not envision that the millage will not pass. However, they are trying to be respectful of the city and not push talking points out until after the September 14 election for the sales tax. The only concern that the library faces is being the third election in the fall and that the voters may be suffering from election fatigue.

## 2. Other

*After the presentation of the CALS Audit, Rousseau had to step away from the meeting for an emergency matter at her place of work.*


McAdoo said she wanted to note that her daughter, Jamee, just spent the past summer working as an intern at the library and that her daughter has loved her experience. Jamee has learned so much about the food insecurity issues facing our community and the work the library is doing to combat it through programs like Be Mighty.


Evans wanted to note that Don Evans is her husband and was happy to be on the call with him today to learn more about what they have been doing with the Coalition to help promote the library.

## 3. Meeting Adjourned

Gibson-Branton, stepping in for Rousseau, asked for the meeting to adjourn at 1:04 p.m.

Bush moved that the meeting adjourn. McAdoo seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

  
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President

  
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Secretary