

Central Arkansas Library System

Board of Directors Meeting

June 29, 2023, at noon

Hybrid Meeting: Darragh Center & Microsoft Teams Video Call

Board members in attendance were Stacey McAdoo, Ryan Davis, Sybil Jordan Hampton, Brandon Grice, Bob Brown, Jennifer Jamison, Alexis Sims, Dustin McDaniel, Madhav Shroff, and Esperanza Massana-Crane. Andy Gill, Luke Underwood, and Audrey Evans were absent.

Staff in attendance were Nate Coulter, Lisa Donovan, Tameka Lee, Eliza Borné, Jo Spencer, Carol Coffey, Chris Ketterman, Pamela Bandy, Joe Hudak, Katie Adams, Hannah Saulter, Nathan Smith, Dre Thornton, Leslie Blanchard, Ellen Samples, Candace White, Mark Christ, Glenn Whaley, Polly Deems, Shya Washington-Webb, Patrice O'Donohue, Brian Robertson, Danielle Afsordeh, and Colin Thompson.

Also in attendance was Joe Flaherty with the Arkansas Democrat Gazette, John Adams with Fuqua Campbell, P.A., Josie Lenora with KUAR, John Manhart and Zachary Adams with CTI Technologies, Mary Jo Heye-Townsell and Michelle Spoor with the City of Sherwood, John Selva with Engel & Völkers, Stuart Mackey with the Hathaway Group, and Morgan Bradley.

Action Items

1. Approval of Minutes

McAdoo asked the Board to approve the May Minutes as presented.

Hampton moved to approve the May Minutes as presented. Grice seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

2. Approval of Intended April Minutes

Prior to the meeting, the Board was informed by email that an incomplete draft of the April Minutes had been mistakenly presented and approved at the May Board meeting. McAdoo asked the Board to approve and substitute the intended April Minutes to make the official record clearer and more accurate.

McDaniel moved to approve the intended April Minutes as presented. Hampton seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

3. Approval of May Financials

Grice reported that as of May 31, 2023, CALS assets totaled \$110,955,941.86 with a net income of \$1,952,793.69. He said that tax collections for the year were up 9.6% through June due to increased collections in May.

Sims asked if the line item in the General Fund for professional fees and legal fees included legal fees paid to Fuqua Campbell, P.A. for the lawsuit challenging Arkansas Act 372. Spencer replied that some legal fees related to Act 372 were included, though she did not have an exact breakdown for the line item on hand. She said that donations for legal expenses were being submitted through the CALS Foundation, which would be granted to CALS as reimbursement for legal fees associated with Act 372. McDaniel asked if any CALS Foundation funds earmarked for legal expenses had been granted to CALS yet. Spencer replied that funds had not been transferred yet. She said the grant from the CALS Foundation would be reflected on the June Financials. Borné added that as of the meeting date, the CALS Foundation had received donations totaling \$25,665 for legal expenses associated with Act 372.

McAdoo filed the May Financials for audit.

4. Approval of Polk Stanley Wilcox Architect Contract for Main Library Renovation & Clark Contractors Contract for Williams Library Remodel

Spencer said that a team of architects led by Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects were selected by committee in 2022 for the Main Library renovation project and that CALS staff worked with attorney Patrick Spivey to finalize the contract. She said that the architect fee would be seven-and-a-half percent of the construction cost, to be paid in increments by the project's phasing. Sims asked if a construction manager and land surveyor had been selected for the project. Spencer replied that the construction manager would be CDI Contractors, but she was not sure who the land surveyor would be.

McDaniel said he had worked with the attorney previously and that he trusted that the Polk Stanley Wilcox and Clark Contractors contracts were in good hands. He asked if CALS staff were comfortable with the fees, timeline, and risks associated with both contracts. Coulter said that he believed the proposed contracts were reflective of sufficient time spent consulting with CALS legal counsel on the best possible agreement.

McDaniel moved to approve the contracts with Polk Stanley Wilcox and with Clark Contractors as presented. Grice seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Information Items

1. Director's Report

Coulter highlighted a few items from his written report:

- *Hillcrest Hall*: Coulter said that he and Ivy attended the June Hillcrest Resident's Association Board meeting to discuss the sale of Hillcrest Hall. He expressed optimism that the HRA Board was sympathetic to the challenges CALS has faced with the property. He said that ownership of the property did not expressly align with the library's mission and that CALS had historically experienced losses from the building's upkeep. Coulter said that he assured the HRA Board that CALS would be selective in finding a

buyer sensitive to the community's best interests to try to prevent undesired development. He added that the property is zoned restrictively and CALS would not accept any offers contingent upon rezoning.

- *Hillary Rodham Clinton Children's Library & Learning Center 10th Anniversary*: Coulter asked Shya Washington-Webb, manager of the CALS Children's Library, to share updates about the branch's ten-year anniversary programming. Washington-Webb said that library staff had planned ten celebration events spanning from March 16 to July 8. She said that, most recently, library staff had been honored to have former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and former President Bill Clinton in attendance for the Cupcakes and Caterpillars event on June 26. The celebration series also included an anniversary kickball game, an Instrument Petting Zoo with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra's Quapaw Quartet, a Picnic at the Playground program, World Bee Day, and several other events.
- *Teaching Garden Update*: Coulter asked Patrice O'Donohue, CALS Teaching Garden Coordinator, to update the Board on the teaching garden and honeybee programs at Children's Library. O'Donohue reported that close to one thousand plants had been grown in the teaching garden so far in 2023, which were shared with other library branches and incorporated into plant giveaways. She highlighted successes from other projects including a popular garden club for kids, the observation hive and "Bee a Reader" reading corner, a farm stand which shared over one-hundred-and-fifty pounds of produce with the community, and the donation of several hundred seed packets to be distributed to the community in partnership with the McMath Library.
- *History As It Happens*: Coulter asked Brian Robertson, manager of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, to share about the History As It Happens initiative aimed at pro-actively documenting community history. Robertson said his team worked to actively solicit material during events such as the historic 2019 Arkansas River Flood, the Black Lives Matter movement, the Covid-19 pandemic, and the 2023 tornado outbreak affecting Central Arkansas. Hundreds of stories, videos, images, questionnaires, and audio recordings were submitted and archived during these initiatives. Robertson said that these efforts have documented and preserved firsthand information about events that impacted the CALS service area.
- *Butler Center Community Outreach*: Coulter asked Danielle Afsordeh, CALS Community Outreach Archivist, to update the Board on several outreach initiatives of the Butler Center. Afsordeh reported successful outreach to the historically Polish community of Marche in northern Pulaski County, a rural community that was underrepresented in community archival work. She said that upwards of four hundred photographs dating back to the community's original settlement have been collected since outreach began. Other initiatives Afsordeh highlighted included oral history training for the community, focusing primarily on underrepresented groups such as immigrant and LGBTQ+ communities, and the collection of Zines, a homemade version of traditional media highlighting local art, society, and culture.
- *MRD Appreciation & Awards*: Coulter highlighted the hard work Lee and the CALS MRD team put into coordinating former Secretary Clinton's visit to the Children's Library. McAdoo asked Lee about the awards her team received at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. Lee shared that CALS received two awards, one print and one digital, during the PR Xchange Awards Competition, which recognizes the best public

relations materials produced by libraries in the past year. The print winner was a collaborative box used to invite media and other related organizations to a virtual media day event. The digital winner was a TikTok based on the television show *Stranger Things*. Lee said a link to the award-winning TikTok could be found in the Director's Report.

2. Other

McAdoo reminded the Board that there would be no July meeting. She said the next meeting of the CALS Board would be August 24, 2023.

3. Move to Adjourn

Davis moved to adjourn the meeting. McAdoo called the meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

President

Secretary