

Central Arkansas Library System

Board of Directors Meeting

January 23, 2025, at noon

Hybrid Meeting: McMath Library & Zoom Video Call

Board members in attendance were Alexis Sims, Audrey Evans, Madhav Shroff, Luke Underwood, Dustin McDaniel, Jennifer Jamison, David Finkbeiner, Ginann Swindle, and Esperanza Massana-Crane. Stacey McAdoo, Ryan Davis, Karama Neal, and Joyce Elliott were absent.

Staff in attendance were Nate Coulter, Tameka Lee, Jo Spencer, Ellen Samples, Kate Matthews, Gonzalo Hernandez, Eliza Borné, Hannah Saulters, Nathan Smith, Andre Thornton, Pamela Bandy, Carol Coffey, Joe Hudak, Elizabeth Clements, Leslie Blanchard, Heather Pressgrove, Heather Zbinden, Stu Nichols, Ray Terry, Brant Collins, Priscilla Barnes, Polly Deems, Laura Hodo, Chloe Kilcrease, and Glenn Whaley.

Also in attendance were Joe Flaherty and Staci Vandagriff with the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Matthew Lehner with CDI Contractors, Amanda Sturgell with Polk Stanley Wilcox, and Thomas Staab with Day 2 Marketing.

McAdoo and Davis were unable to attend the meeting, so Evans led the proceedings.

Action Items

1. Approval of Minutes

Evans asked the Board to approve the December Minutes.

McDaniel moved to approve the December Minutes as presented. Underwood seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

2. Approval of December Financials

Underwood reported that as of December 31, 2024, CALS assets totaled \$111,509,596.00. The annual net income totaled \$1,197,874. He added that tax receipts were up 1.5 million through January.

Evans filed the December Financials for audit.

3. Motion to Use Funds from the Sale of Hillcrest Hall for Main Remodel Project

Evans summarized the Hillcrest Hall discussion from the December 12, 2024, Board meeting, which included using the proceeds from the sale of Hillcrest Hall for the Main Remodel. Spencer added that the \$562,000 made on the sale was placed in reserves and earned 4.5% interest annually. She noted that \$419,000 is the estimated cost to complete the Darragh Center for the Children's Programming Area. The remaining \$143,000 could

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be used for remaining construction projects, such as parking gates and the relocation of the Icarus statue. Any remaining funds could be applied back to the original construction contract.

Sims read the resolution to release the Hillcrest Hall funds. Sims moved to approve the motion. The motion was seconded by Finkbeiner and passed unanimously.

4. Proposed Modification of the Naming Policy

Borné stated that the purpose for the modification was to clarify the expectations and for consistency with donors who ask for an acknowledgement attached to their donations. The original naming policy was passed in February 2024. The additions to that policy would allow discretion and flexibility in the naming policy, without needing Board approval for every exception. The proposed changes would also allow for the sub-unit naming extension to increase from 20 to 30 years. Those changes would be made on a case-by-case basis.

McDaniel thanked Borné for spending time researching this issue and for drafting a revised policy. McDaniel and Borné both commented on how they believed this new policy would help the future leaders of CALS.

McDaniel moved to adopt the Revised Naming Policy as presented. Finkbeiner seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

5. Election of New Board Officers

Coulter introduced the new slate of officers for the CALS Board. They were: Karama Neal as President, Ryan Davis as Vice President, and Luke Underwood as Treasurer. Coulter also thanked Stacey McAdoo for her service as Board President.

Evans asked if any alternates would be nominated as officers. Hearing none, she asked for those in favor to signal in the affirmative, and the motion carried unanimously.

Information Items

1. Director's Report

Coulter thanked Laura Hodo for her work as Branch Manager at McMath. Hodo elaborated on her 17 years of service at that library. Coulter introduced new Board member, Ginann Swindle, from Sherwood. Swindle served as Branch Manager at Sanders Library for 28 years. Coulter introduced the new CALS Human Resources Manager, Priscilla Barnes. Barnes described her previous work in Human Resources and for nonprofit organizations.

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Coulter welcomed Matthew Lehner with CDI Contractors and Amanda Sturgell with Polk Stanley Wilcox. Coulter described the meeting he and Lehner had with the Little Rock Engineers Club and the tour of the Main construction, led by Lehner. Lehner and Sturgell described the work currently being done on the rooftop patio area.

Sturgell commented on the pigeon abatement options at Roberts Library. She described a high-frequency abatement option which mimics predators. She mentioned having options and pricing for abatement options from Polk Stanley Wilcox by the end of the month.

Coulter highlighted a few items from his written report:

- **Nonresident Library Cards and Hoopla:** Coulter described the ongoing issues with Hoopla. Blanchard stated that CALS is looking into lowering the amount of monthly patron checkouts, from seven to five. Evans asked about possible abuse in the checkout process. Blanchard commented that patrons wait until midnight—when Hoopla resets—to checkout items. She added that those times see the largest activity, in part because receiving an item is instantaneous and there are no waiting times. She added that Hoopla seems unwilling to change their refresh time from midnight to a different time.
- **Strategic Planning:** Coffey described the latest Strategic Planning meeting with the Administrative Council. Coffey noted that the community feedback they are receiving will influence the writing of the Strategic Plan. Coffey stated a desire to meet with the Senior Leadership Team soon to discuss community feedback. The staff planning team will meet in February to begin writing the Strategic Plan.
- **Programming Updates:** Samples updated the Board on the kickoff of the 2025 Distinguished Lecture Series, which will feature Victoria Christopher Murray as the CALS Darragh lecturer. Murray is the co-author of *The Personal Librarian* and *The First Ladies*. Murray is here promoting her new book, *Harlem Rhapsody*. She'll join in a moderated discussion and book signing on February 27, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Ron Robinson Theater. Lee noted the upcoming Black Family Expo on February 1, 2025, at the Dunbar Community Center, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is the Expo's third year. The Expo has grown every year; this year's event will feature fifteen exhibitors instead of ten. Those exhibitors can share their family history, stories, and memorabilia. Borné noted the upcoming CALS Used Book Sale, taking place on: Thursday, February 13th from 2p.m.-5p.m.; Friday, February 14th from 10a.m.-2p.m.; and Saturday, February 15th from 10a.m.-2p.m.
- **Pigeon Problem:** Finkbeiner asked about pricing for the other pigeon abatement options. Spencer noted the \$106,000 in the Deferred Maintenance Budget, which is earmarked for this and is based on a previous quote from a contractor. Spencer and Bandy mentioned an electric fence type abatement quote from Avian Flyway. This estimate was \$170,000 plus electrical work that needed to be done. CALS would have the option to purchase a maintenance contract that would cover any repairs or issues after the first year's warranty expires. Sturgell reiterated that she is still waiting for pricing estimates.

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2. Move to Adjourn

Evans called the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to be "K. Evans", written over a horizontal line.

President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "A. K. Evans", written over a horizontal line.

Secretary