

Minutes of the Board of Trustees  
North Little Rock Public Library  
Special Meeting  
Friday, March 29, 2024 @ 4:30 PM

The Board met in Laman Library's Auditorium with Zoom access provided. Mr. Sonny Rhodes called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Those present were Ms. Crystal Gates, Executive Director; Mr. Sonny Rhodes, President; Mr. Charley Baxter; Ms. Esther Crawford, Ms. Kim Drake, and Ms. Jenny Heard. Ms. Katie Phippin and Ms. Joyce Brewer, who arrived a few minutes later, joined remotely. Also present: Mayor Terry Hartwick, Ms. Errin Stanger, Mr. Richard Theilig, Ms. Stacy Purdy, and Ms. Robin Campbell. Mr. Jerry Adams, Mr. Joyjit Deb Roy; Ms. Zöe Eagan, Mr. Adam Kittrell, Ms. Natalie Madison, Ms. Hannah May, Mr. Tim May, Ms. Mary Stafford, Mr. Taylor Tanner, Ms. Judy Weishar, and Ms. Lacy Wolfe, joined remotely.

Motion Ms. Drake, second Ms. Crawford to approve a bid of \$510,093.16 from All Spec Roof Corp. to replace a section of Laman Library's roof. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Gates and Ms. Stanger expressed interest in exploring whether the Library would consider acquiring the Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub, an affiliate of Winrock International. Mayor Hartwick expressed support for a partnership between the Library and the Hub. He suggested Board Members compile any questions they have of The Hub and Winrock before the next meeting. Mr. Adams, founder of the Arkansas Research Alliance and a Winrock Board Member, mentioned the compatibility of Innovation Hub and Library services. Ms. Stanger highlighted The Hub's partnerships with Microsoft, Best Buy, and the Arkansas Office of Skills Development. During further discussion, library board members expressed concerns for additional debt after recently paying off the Library's bonds. Ms. Crawford requested a tour of the Innovation Hub. Motion Ms. Drake, second Ms. Brewer to authorize Ms. Gates' moving forward with exploration of an Innovation Hub/Library partnership. Motion carried unanimously.

Members of the Board and Library's Executive Team will tour the Innovation Hub, at 204 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street in North Little Rock, at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. The next special meeting is set for 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

With no further business to discuss, motion Ms. Crawford, second Ms. Heard to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Crystal Gates, Secretary