

Minutes of the Board of Trustees
North Little Rock Public Library
Regular Meeting
Monday, September 16, 2024 @ 5:30 PM

The Board met in Laman Library's Art Gallery with Zoom access provided. Mr. Sonny Rhodes called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Those present were Ms. Crystal Gates, Executive Director; Mr. Sonny Rhodes, President; Mr. Charley Baxter; Ms. Esther Crawford, Ms. Kim Drake, Ms. Jenny Heard, and Ms. Katie Phippin. Ms. Joyce Brewer joined a moment later. Also present: Mr. Richard Theilig, Ms. Robin Campbell, Ms. Stacy Purdy, and Ms. Lacy Wolfe. Mr. Adam Branscum and Ms. Susie Kirk joined remotely.

Motion Ms. Drake, second Ms. Phippin to approve the Minutes of May 20, 2024, June 13, 2024, and August 19, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

After a review of the Financial Report by Ms. Gates, motion Ms. Drake, second Ms. Brewer to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Theilig reviewed the Statistical Report. Ms. Gates explained higher than normal website traffic as most likely a bot. She said Rover has been busy in the last few months and spoke of the needed renovation of Argenta Library's basement as unlimited potential for studio/workshop space. Motion Ms. Drake, second Ms. Phippin to approve the Statistical Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Gates reviewed the Executive Summary Report, including her PTO, recent meeting schedule, upcoming events, and planned conference attendance. Ms. Campbell discussed recent grants and partnering with Hydco, a general contractor, and Garver, an engineering consultant firm, to demolish the little building outside Laman's Children's entrance.

Following discussion of Ed Pennebaker's glass sculptures, motion Ms. Heard, second Ms. Brewer, authorizing Ms. Gates to move forward with John Gaudin and the Argenta Downtown Council in securing a grant to increase outdoor art at Argenta Library.

Ms. Gates proposed engaging Constructive Disruption, a future-focused consulting firm, in designing a Strategic Plan to incorporate the Library System and Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub. Motion Ms. Crawford, second Ms. Phippin to fund designing a Strategic Plan from the Service Account. Motion carried unanimously.

In discussing the upcoming Staff Awards Dinner, Ms. Gates requested appreciation gift cards be given to all staff members in November. Motion Ms. Heard, second Ms. Crawford to distribute \$100 gift cards for each staff member from the Service Account. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Gates announced upcoming events, including Third Friday Art Walk on September 20; the Unveiling of the North Little Rock Conference Center on October 8; and the Staff Award Dinner on December 7.

Ms. Drake commented on the quick cleanup of a tree in Laman Plaza.

The next regular meeting is set for November 18, 2024.

With no further business to discuss, motion Ms. Brewer, second Ms. Drake to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Crystal Gates, Secretary