

Minutes of the Board of Trustees
North Little Rock Public Library
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 17, 2025 @ 5:30 PM

The Board met in Laman Library's Room 126 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; Ms. Katie Phippin, Vice President; Mr. Charley Baxter; Ms. Esther Crawford; Ms. Kim Drake; and Ms. Jenny Heard. Ms. Joyce Brewer was absent. Motion Mr. Baxter, second Ms. Crawford, to excuse the absence of Ms. Brewer. Motion carried unanimously. Also present: Mr. Richard Theilig, Ms. Robin Campbell, Ms. Stacy Purdy, and Ms. Lacy Wolfe. Ms. Susie Kirk and Mr. Adam Branscum joined remotely.

Motion Mr. Baxter, second Ms. Heard, to approve the Minutes of January 20, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

During a review of the Financial Report, Mr. Baxter asked about grants for The Innovation Hub, and Ms. Gates said that several, including the Microsoft TechSpark grant, were being renewed. Motion Ms. Crawford, second Ms. Drake, to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Theilig reviewed the Statistical Report, highlighting Garden Fest attendance and favorable community comments. Motion Ms. Drake, second Ms. Heard 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. In a Strategic Plan update, she shared the Library System's new mission statement as "Empower. Community. Connections." and said the completed plan will be revealed at the Board of Trustees' May 19, 2025, meeting. Ms. Campbell highlighted the renewal of a \$40,000 Beacon Fund grant for Operating Expenses at The Innovation Hub. Ms. Wolfe shared programming highlights, Neighborhood Services news, and staff member professional development efforts.

Ms. Gates announced upcoming events, including Third Friday Art Walk; Staff Training March 31 – April 1; and upcoming conferences.

The next regular meeting is set for May 19, 2025.

Ms. Drake asked Ms. Gates to provide a library legislative update and thanked all staff members for being frontline warriors, a sentiment echoed by others.

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

Crystal Gates, Secretary