

January 25, 2016
Dorchester County Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
St. George Library

Minutes

1. Call to Order:

Acting Chair Tommy Socha called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Attending the meeting were board members, Andrew Gentry, Keturah Inabinett, Warren McCarl, Katherine Pemberton and Beth Sabine.

Staff members present were Library Director, Jennie Redmond and Business Manager, Pinky Harriott.

2. Public Comment Period:

There was no public comment.

3. Minutes:

A motion was made by Ms. Sabine and seconded by Ms. Inabinett to approve the corrected minutes from the November 20, 2015 meeting. The motion passed.

4. Board Elections:

The nominating committee made its recommendations for the 2016 officers and the following nominations were made as motions and were voted on individually. Ms. Sabine nominated Dr. McCarl as Chair, this was seconded by Mr. Socha and the motion passed. Ms. Inabinett nominated Mr. Socha as Vice-chair, this was seconded by Ms. Sabine and the motion passed. Mr. Socha nominated Ms. Inabinett as Treasurer, this was seconded by Ms. Sabine and the motion passed. Mr. Socha nominated Mr. Gentry as 2nd Treasurer, this was seconded by Ms. Sabine and the motion passed. Finally, Mr. Socha nominated Ms. Sabine as Secretary, this was seconded by Ms. Inabinett and the motion passed.

5. Business Report:

A presentation on the Library's annual audit was provided by Trip Wingard and Marty Murdaugh from Murdaugh & Associates. They reported on the yearly audit and once again gave the library a clean (unqualified) opinion on the financials.

Ms. Harriott then reviewed the financial numbers with the board. She reported that we are halfway through the fiscal year with 51% of the budget spent so we are right on track. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Ms. Inabinett and seconded by Ms. Pemberton. The motion passed.

The board then reviewed the Purchasing Policy updates. The biggest change was in increasing the amounts that can be handled by the Director and leave some responsibility on the Branch Managers & the Business Manager. This makes the library more efficient and more in line with the County's procedures. A motion to accept changes to the Purchasing Policy was made by Ms. Sabine and seconded by Mr. Socha. The motion passed.

6. Facilities Assessment Update:

Ms. Redmond updated the board on progress regarding the facilities assessment project. Staff has been working closely with consultants Liollo and Associates as well as their library experts from Providence

Associates. This team conducted a board workshop prior to the board meeting, explaining their work to-date and laying out the next steps with regards to public meetings and gathering community opinion through a survey process. The consultants gathered input from board members about what we would like to see in new library facilities and what we thought was important to the future of the library system. Ms. Redmond reported that six public meetings have been scheduled across the county in a variety of venues. She stated that media efforts to encourage attendance at the meetings have been ongoing. The Summerville Journal Scene and the Eagle Record, as well as some television stations have helped to get the word out. One thing that Ms. Redmond stressed was that these meetings represent the beginning of a process; that they were not about a bond referendum. She stated that the consultants hope to have a report completed by the end of March so that the Library may share it with County Council at their April meeting.

7. Outreach Services/ Director's Report:

Ms. Redmond touched on a few items from her Director's Report. She updated the board about the bookmobile, the cleaning of the carpets at both branches, staff changes, and on-going efforts to secure several grants. She updated the board on staff efforts to revise and update policies and procedures and talked about revisions to some of the statistical data on the library. As it turns out, Dorchester County Library has a much higher borrower rate than we had previously understood. 75.8% of county residents hold library cards (this includes active and inactive borrowers). Ms. Redmond led the board in extended discussions about the facilities assessment project and answered board questions.

One outreach item of particular importance was the Legislative Day held at the SC Statehouse on January 20th. Ms. Redmond attended in order to meet with state lawmakers and to encourage them to support a recommendation by the SC Association of Counties to amend Sec. 6-1-320 to allow county councils to hold referendums to give voters the option of allowing councils to impose additional millage for the purposes of upgrading and operating library systems to meet public demand for services. This is exactly the remedy we find ourselves needing for Dorchester County.

8. Action Items:

- a. Approval of 2016 Officers. The following slate of officers was unanimously approved by the board:

Dr. Warren McCarl, Chair
Mr. Tommy Socha, Vice-Chair
Ms. Keturah Inabinett, Treasurer
Mr. Andrew Gentry, 2nd Treasurer
Ms. Beth Sabine, Secretar

9. Committee Reports:

African Art Committee Update:

The board discussed the African Art in detail. Dr. McCarl made a motion to spend less than \$3,000 for an appraisal on the art and Mr. Socha seconded. The board voted in favor of proceeding with the valuation. Ms. Sabine said she would contact the company she spoke with and see about scheduling for that.

Mr. Socha motioned the meeting be adjourned at 8:25pm.