

PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF CULLMAN COUNTY
MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION January 19, 2023

The Public Library Board of Cullman County met on Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 4:30 in the Special Collections Room at the Cullman branch of the Cullman County Public Library System. Present were: Brenda Scott, Lea Scott, and Drew Green. Also present were Sharon Townson, Library Director and Josie Harrington, Assistant Library Director.

Board Vice-Chairman, Brenda Scott called the meeting to order at 4:30.

The first item on the agenda was the adoption of the minutes from the previous meeting. Drew Green made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Lea Scott.

Item B on the agenda was approval of the financial reports. Financial reports were accepted with a motion from Lea Scott and a second by Brenda Scott.

The next item on the agenda was concerning the Cullman County Public Library System applying to become a 501c3 to allow more options for grants and donations. Brenda Scott made a motion to approve, and was seconded by Drew Green.

Item D was addressing the situation with the current Friends of the Public Libraries of Cullman County Board. The Library Board asked Director Sharon Townson to draft a letter, with the assistance of an outside consultant, to the Friends Group Board notifying them of the Library Board's decision to disassociate with this Friends' Group. Drew Green asked for Rusty Turner to review the letter for his legal opinion. Lea Scott requested deadlines stated in this letter to the Friends' group board, to ensure this transition takes place in a timely manner. Drew Green made a motion to move forward in disassociating with the current Friends' Group Board. The motion was seconded by Lea Scott.

All votes were in the affirmative.

Next meeting set for Thursday, April 20, 2023.

As there were no action items, the meeting was adjourned at 5:04.

For the Board,

Sharon Townson
Library Director

PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF CULLMAN COUNTY
MINUTES – SPECIAL CALLED MEETING APRIL 13, 2023

The Public Library Board of Cullman County met on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 5:00 in the Special Collections Room at the Cullman branch of the Cullman County Public Library System. Present were: Lea Scott, Rusty Turner, and Drew Green. Also present were Sharon Townson, Library Director and Josie Harrington, Assistant Library Director.

Board Treasurer, Lea Scott called the meeting to order at 5:00.

Item A on the agenda was the Friends of the Friends of the Public Libraries of Cullman County. Rusty Turner made a motion for Sharon Townson, Library Director, and Josie Harrington, Assistant Library Director contact the County's attorney to discuss the lack of action concerning the letter from the Library Board to the Friends Group Board. This is to facilitate a meeting with the Library Board and the Friends of the Library Board to complete the disassociation between the two. Most important at hand is the funds from the Daniel Foundation Grant; the Friends Board has at this time not relinquished funds earmarked for the bookmobile, which is a very time sensitive matter. The motion was seconded by Drew Green.

All votes were in the affirmative.

Next meeting set for Thursday, April 20, 2023.

As there were no action items, the meeting was adjourned at 5:08.

For the Board,

Sharon Townson
Library Director

PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF CULLMAN COUNTY

MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION APRIL 20, 2023

The Public Library Board of Cullman County met on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 4:30 in the Special Collections Room at the Cullman branch of the Cullman County Public Library System. Present were: Rusty Turner, Brenda Scott, Lea Scott, Drew Green, and Tanya Allcorn. Also present were Sharon Townson, Library Director and Josie Harrington, Assistant Library Director.

Board Vice-Chairman acting as Chair, Brenda Scott called the meeting to order at 4:30.

The first item on the agenda was the adoption of the minutes from the previous meetings. The minutes were accepted as presented.

Item B on the agenda was approval of the financial reports. Financial reports were accepted as submitted.

The next item on the agenda was the acceptance of the Director's Report. Rusty Turner made a motion to approve, and was seconded by Drew Green.

Item D on the agenda was the purchase of a new phone system for the library. Drew Green made a motion to approve the purchase of a new phone system. Lea Scott seconded the motion.

Item E on the agenda was a memorial for Ron Hogue. The library will purchase \$100 in travel books in honor of Mr. Hogue. Motion was made by Rusty Turner. Lea Scott seconded the motion.

Item F on the agenda was concerning the officers on the Library Board. Rusty Turner made a motion to keep the FY2023 slate of officers as they stand. New offices will be installed at the beginning of FY2024. Motion was seconded by Drew Green.

The next item on the agenda was concerning the lack of a handicap restroom at the library. Drew Green made a motion to update the restroom locate off from the kitchen area. Price cap \$5,000. Rusty Turner made a second to the motion.

Before the meeting adjourned new Library Board member, Tanya Allcorn introduced herself to the Library Board.

All votes were in the affirmative.

Next meeting set for Thursday, August 17, 2023.

As there were no action items, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10.

For the Board,

Sharon Townson
Library Director

PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF CULLMAN COUNTY

MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION AUGUST 29, 2023

The Public Library Board of Cullman County met on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. in the Special Collections Room of the Cullman County Public Library. Present were: Sharon Townson, Josephine Harrington, Lea Scott, Drew Green, Tanya Allcorn, Tiffany McKoy (journalist), Deb Reynolds (community member, Library staff), Shirley Arnett (community member), and two who introduced themselves as members of the Hanceville Public Library Board.

The Board Meeting was called to order at 4:58 p.m.

The first item on the agenda was the adoption of the minutes from the previous meeting. The minutes were accepted as presented. Drew Green made the motion to adopt, and Tanya Allcorn seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The second item on the agenda was the approval of the financial reports. Financial reports were accepted as presented. Drew Green made the motion to approve, and Lea Scott seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The third item on the agenda was addressing Book Challenges presented by a member of the community. This was tabled to allow for the Board to further review the challenged materials and expected to be addressed at the next meeting. The books, when and if returned (as they were checked out at the time of this meeting) were requested to be held at the library so that they could be physically seen in the next meeting.

The fourth item on the agenda was approving spending up to \$1200 to have a Structural Engineer inspect the library after storm damage on August 7, 2023. Lea Scott made the motion to approve, and Drew Green seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The fifth item on the agenda was approving removing Sharon Townson from all Library Accounts and adding Laura Benton to all accounts, as Sharon is retiring. Drew Green made the motion to approve, and Tanya Allcorn seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The sixth item on the agenda was discussing removing the Men/Women sign from the library's bathrooms and making both gender neutral, and adding a changing station to what is currently the "Men's" bathroom.

The seventh item was an update about the library after receiving storm damage on August 7, 2023.

The Regular Session was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

All but Sharon, Lea, Drew, and Tanya left the room in order to begin an Executive Session regarding the Appointment of the next Library Director.

The Executive Session was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

Josephine Harrington was appointed as Library Director in a majority vote, with Lea Scott and Drew Green voting in favor and Tanya Allcorn voting in opposition.

The Executive Meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF CULLMAN COUNTY
MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

The Public Library Board of Cullman County met on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 4:30 in the Special Collections Room at the Cullman branch of the Cullman County Public Library System. Present were: Rusty Turner, Lea Scott, Drew Green, and Tanya Allcorn. Also present was Josie Harrington (Assistant Director? Director? Interim Director?)

Lea Scott called the meeting to order at 4:30.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the last meeting's minutes. Drew Green made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, and Rusty Turner seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The second item on the agenda was the approval of the financial reports. Drew Green made the motion to accept the financial report, and Lea Scott seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The third item on the agenda was the Director's report updating the Board on library activities since the previous meeting.

The fourth item on the agenda was the approval of the budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Drew Green made the motion to approve the budget, and Rusty Turner seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The fifth item on the agenda the request to amend the Board's bylaws to allow for phone/teleconference/video attendance to Board meetings. Drew Green made the motion to approve the amendment, and Rusty Turner seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The sixth item on the agenda was the review of the Public Records Request Form. Adjustments were made to remove a fee. Rusty Turner made the motion to approve the amended Public Records Request Form, and Drew Green seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The seventh item on the agenda was discussion of recent book challenges. The decision on whether to remove/move/keep the challenged books was tabled to allow the Board to review the books in person as they had only just been returned to the library.

The eighth item on the agenda was hearing from Shirley Arnett who wished to speak on her submission of Requests for Reconsideration of Library Materials and the previous meeting.

The ninth item on the agenda was hearing from Cathi Bradford who wished to speak about Unique Management Services (UMS). It was requested that Josie Harrington request that UMS adjust letters to have friendlier text.

The tenth item on the agenda was hearing from Lance Conn who wished to speak in support of the library retaining challenged materials.

The eleventh item on the agenda was discussion of appointment of the Library Director. The vote had erroneously happened during an executive session previously when it should have been taken in a regular session. Discussion was held on having the vote again in the regular session. As there had been some question from the public about the process of selection of the Library Director regarding the appointment in a Board Meeting, Rusty Turner suggested posting the Director position and taking applications. Rusty Turner made the motion and Drew Green seconded it. All were in favor.

Rusty Turner also made the motion to appoint Josie Harrington as Interim Director during this time. Drew Green seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The twelfth item on the agenda was recommending further updates and amendments to the Board's bylaws. These would be presented to the Board and voted upon in future meetings. Josie Harrington will be suggesting updates based on other Library Boards' bylaws and the Board will vote on them.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 pm.

The next meeting was set for October 19th, as the annual Board Meeting.

PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF CULLMAN COUNTY
MINUTES – ANNUAL SESSION OCTOBER 19, 2023

The Public Library Board of Cullman County met on Tuesday, October 19, 2023 at 4:30 in the Special Collections Room at the Cullman branch of the Cullman County Public Library System. Present were: Brenda Scott (via telephone, permissible by our bylaws), Rusty Turner, Drew Green, Tanya Allcorn, and Jill Meggs.

Brenda Scott called the meeting to order at 4:30.

The first item on the agenda was the adoption of the previous meeting's minutes. Drew Green made a motion to accept them as written and Brenda Scott seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The second item on the agenda was approval of the financial reports. Rusty Turner made a motion to approve the financial reports and recommendation to file for audit, Tanya Allcorn seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The third item on the agenda was acceptance of the Director's report. Drew Green made the motion to accept the report, and Rusty Turner seconded the motion.

The fourth item on the agenda was a resolution for the Library Director to enter into a contract with the City of Cullman for Library Appropriations. Rusty Turner made the motion to approve, and Drew Green seconded the motion.

The fifth item on the agenda was hearing from Shirley Arnett who requested to speak. She wished to speak on the topic of the books involved in the Request for Reconsideration forms and explain more of her reasoning for requesting the three and books like them being moved or removed.

The sixth item on the agenda was hearing from Lance Conn who requested to speak. He wished to speak on the topic of the book challenges and defend them remaining in the general collection.

The seventh item on the agenda was hearing from Kristy Shallenberger who requested to speak. She wished to speak on the topic of book challenges and defend them remaining in the general collection.

The eighth item on the agenda was the board's decision on the books for which the Request for Reconsideration forms were submitted. For all three books – Lily and Dunkin, Heather Has

Two Mommies, and Prince and Knight – the board unanimously decided that the books would not be removed or moved and would remain in the collection where they had been.

The ninth item on the agenda was hearing from Cathi Bradford and Pam Reid who requested to speak. They wished to give an update to the board on what had been discussed in the Hanceville Library's board meeting. These topics included discussion of which branch funds for lost books belong at, Unique Management Services, and improving communication between branches.

The tenth item on the agenda was recognition of the need to update the board's bylaws. This would be handled by the board discussing a section at a time in a meeting, deciding on if any changes need to be made to that section, and then the Library Director sending an email with the bylaws as written and the proposed amendment in an email to each board member to have in writing the proposed amendments. Then at the next board meeting, those amendments would be voted on.

The eleventh item on the agenda was discussion of the Interim Director's pay. The recommended pay was set at \$57,000 per year. Drew Green made the motion to approve, and Jill Meggs seconded the motion.

The twelfth item on the agenda was discussion of the posting of the Director Position. The board members would like to speak with the county commission about the pay, as the \$57,000 currently available for the next Director may lead to some difficulty in hiring a qualified candidate for the role. Actual posting of the position is tabled until the next meeting.

The thirteenth item on the agenda was discussion of Officer Elections. Normally those would be elected during the October Annual meeting, but as no nominating committee had been appointed in August, instead Vice Chair Brenda Scott appointed the nominating committee this meeting. During the next meeting, the nominating committee will elect officers. The nominating committee is: Drew Green, Rusty Turner, and Tanya Allcorn.

The fourteenth item on the agenda was discussion of making the Financial Reports more readable.

The fifteenth item on the agenda was discussion Trustee Training. Videos can be viewed during meetings, and the manual can be reviewed by board members outside of meetings.

While it was not an item on the agenda, it is worth noting that as of September 30, Lea Scott's term on the board had ended. Jill Meggs was appointed to fill the position.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52pm.

The next meeting was set for November 16, 2023 at 4:30 pm.