

Stewart County Library Board Meeting – Summary of Minutes
May 23, 2024– 1:00 pm
Parks Memorial Public Library

In attendance:

Nea Permenter – Chair
Bobbi Boynton – Vice Chair
Carmen Coy
Martha McCoy
Susan Ramsey
Crystal Townsend

Also: Alan Harkness, Director, CVL
Doris Spinks-Russell, Parks Branch Manager
Lizette Cruz, Administrative Specialist, CVL
Amy Stankus, Retired Architect, candidate for SCLB

- I. Call to order: Chair Permenter called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.
- II. Chair Permenter asked the board to review the minutes from the February 8, 2024, meeting. Bobbi Boynton made a motion to approve the minutes, and Susan Ramsey seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous by Permenter, Boynton, Coy, McCoy, Ramsey, and Townsend.
- III. Public Comment: There were no Public Comments. Chair Permenter presented her guest, Amy Stankus. Stankus is considering serving on the board when a position opens and wanted to see how the process works. Every welcomed her to the meeting.
- IV. Treasurer's Report
Branch Manager Doris Spinks-Russell presented the treasurer's report. Manager Spinks-Russell handed out a revised copy of the budget to correct an error in the one handed out in the board meeting packet. The budget balance as of April 30th, 2024, is \$16, 081.39.
- V. Director's Report
Director Alan Harkness presented the director's report. Director Harkness presented the CVL Summer 2024 Program Guide. He welcomed the board to check out all the different programs this summer, including the summer reading program. This program is sponsored by AFLAC.. The Columbus Children's Book festival had over 3000 people attend. Over 60 volunteers joined with the CVL staff to make this festival a success. The planning for CCBF 2025 is already under way.

CVL has led the way for fines free in Georgia. Through this leadership there are now 11 library systems in Georgia that have some version of fines free in their libraries. Director Harkness is happy to report that proposed State Senate Bill 390 did not pass. This bill would have made it much harder to recruit qualified librarians to the state of Georgia.

Director Harkness went over the dashboard statistics of the CVL with the board.

He then invited Chair Permenter to share her experience at the PLA 2024 Conference held in Columbus, Ohio. Chair Permenter had a wonderful experience. She came back knowing much more about libraries and the impact they have in a community. She has ideas she wants to discuss with the board later. She recommends that board members put in to attend the next conference in 2026.

VI. Local Library Report

Manager Spinks-Russell presented the local library report. Chair Yoga has grown to an average of 9 attendees every Tuesday and Thursday. The library has a clothing closet where members of the community can find free gently used clothing to take home. They were even able to provide three prom dresses to students for prom this year. Shoes and books are also available.

The library has received an ALA grant of \$2,000.00 to teach a child financial literacy program to children ages 3 to 12 years old. The program will consist of training, iPads, and enough other materials to run between 5 and 8 programs in a year and half. Spinks-Russell plans have the program on Saturdays. The dates and time are still to be established.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was none.

VIII. New Business

i. **Motion to approve the FY25 Budget as presented.**

Coy made a motion to approve the FY25 budget as presented, and McCoy seconded. The vote in favor was unanimous by Permenter, Boynton, Coy, McCoy, Ramsey, and Townsend.

ii. **Motion to approve Chair Permenter requesting additional funds from the Stewart County Board of Commissioners for the Parks Memorial Public Library at the next SCBC meeting.**

After some discussion, the board decided to ask the SCBC for an increase of \$1,200 for their contribution to the Parks Memorial Budget. McCoy made a motion to approve having Chair Permenter along with several other board members approach the SCBC and ask for the increase. Townsend seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous by Permenter, Boynton, Coy, McCoy, Ramsey, and Townsend.

iii. **Motion to add item to the agenda.**

Boynton made a motion to add the following item to the agenda; Nominate Susan Ramsey as treasurer to replace Lisa Wischnewsky (Wischnewsky has failed to attend 3 consecutive meetings and by law has been removed from the board). Ramsey seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous by Permenter, Boynton, Coy, McCoy, Ramsey, and Townsend.

iv. **Motion to accept the nomination of Susan Ramsey as Treasurer.**

McCoy made a motion to accept the nomination of Susan Ramsey as treasurer. Boynton seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous by Permenter, Boynton, Coy, McCoy, Ramsey, and Townsend.

The next Stewart County Library Board meeting is scheduled for August 8, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 PM.

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