

Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Maxwell Branch Library
Monday, June 17, 2024
5:30 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System (ARCPLS) Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:37 pm by Board President, Morris Porter.

II. ROLL CALL

Members present: Morris Porter (President); Brenda Garman (Vice President); Tonia Gibbons (Treasurer); Anna Reeves; Christine Rhodes; Kigwana Cherry; Cher Best (via phone). Members absent: Carletta McGruder (excused); Kimberly Brown (excused); Anita Rookard (excused). Ex-officio members present: Dennis Garman (representing Friends of the Augusta Library president Leon Maben); Emanuel Mitchell (Library Director); Tina Monaco (transcriber); Ex-officio members absent: Commissioner Bobby Williams.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Mitchell asked the board to remove “**Item d) Jani King Quote**” under **New Business** as he has not received the quote. Ms. Reeves moved to omit the Jani King quote from the agenda. Ms. Cherry seconded. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Gibbons moved to approve the minutes with corrections. Mr. Cherry seconded. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

V. TREASURER’S REPORT

Mr. Mitchell reminded the board that May 2024 was a three-pay period month so payroll for was higher. Salaries and wages are the library’s highest expense. The disbursement ARCPLS receives monthly from Richmond County is \$240,000. Full-time salaries for May was \$158,870.92, part-time \$15,923.30. ARCPLS netted \$45,000 for operations from the disbursement.

VI. REPORTS

A. President’s Report:

- Mr. Porter thanked ARCPLS for participating in the Juneteenth parade and to Ms. Reeves for contributing water.
- The board members discussed appointing a board (president, secretary, and treasurer) to manage the YMLA funds and named Friends of the Augusta Library (FOAL) members who may be interested.
- Mr. Porter and Ms. Best discussed fundraising opportunities for ARCPLS. The fundraising committee is Ms. Best, Ms. Reeves, and Ms. Rhodes.

- Mr. Porter stated that he was approached by a member of the Richmond County Board of Education regarding an ex-officio member from the board of education being placed on the ARCPLS Board of Trustees. The board discussed the proposal.

B. Director’s Report:

- The Summer Reading Program Kickoff was June 1, 2024. ARCPLS partnered with RISE Augusta, and the CSRA United Way. Mr. Mitchell showed the board slides from the event. It was well attended. 9,756 books were available for giveaway. Total families 751. Children 1,645. 160 hours of volunteer service. 17 vendors.
- The Appleby renovations grant will be active July 1, 2024. Once this occurs press releases will go out announcing the grant. Mr. Mitchell requests the board and the Augusta legislation be present for the check signing event at the state and local levels.
- The grand opening for the ARCPLS Tech Hub will occur in mid-July 2024, in conjunction with Augusta Day. Date to be announced.
- The inaugural concert of the Appleby Concert Series on Tuesday, June 4, 2024 was canceled because of weather. The second concert on Tuesday, June 11th was well attended. The third will take place Tuesday, June 18th.
- ARCPLS and FOAL partnered with GPLS (Georgia Public Library Service) and GLS (Georgia Library Services for the Blind and Print Disabled) for a “Bingo Night for the Visually Impaired” on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. 17 participants attended. Kristin White (GLS) and Georgina Lewis (ARCPLS public services) organized the event.
- The bookmobile was in the Juneteenth parade with library staff Liz Mason, Nicholas Cullen, and Crystal Hannah.

C. Committee: See President’s Report.

D. Friends of the Augusta Library Report:

- FOAL assisted with the SRP Kickoff and is currently assisting with the Appleby Concert Series. \$200 in donations were accepted at the last concert and \$70 worth of tickets were sold for an iPad raffle.
- The Augusta Women’s Club made a generous donation to the SRP Kickoff (\$100) and the Appleby Concert Series (\$500).
- FOAL donated funds for Star War Reads Day on October 5, 2024.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Incident Reports:

- On May 27, 2024, a patron was seen on camera pulling up plants at Friedman Branch Library. He was seen again on June 17, 2024 pulling up additional plants, after checking out books at Friedman. Mr. Mitchell filed a police report.
- On May 30, 2024, a library employee sustained a minor finger injury. No further incident.
- On June 12, 2024 a fire system sensor failed. The Augusta Fire Department responded. Headquarters library closed to the public for the day. The sensor was replaced on Thursday, June 13th. Headquarters reopened Friday, June 14th. Additional sensors are due for replacement.

b) Tech Hub Update:

- Close to completion. All orders, manuals, and staff training should be completed by mid-July 2024.

- The grand opening will be in conjunction with Augusta Day.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **State Reimbursed Positions Salary Increase:** ARCPLS has three state reimbursed positions. These positions are designated by the ARCPLS Library Director. The state voted to increase salaries by 4%, up to \$3000.00. Ms. Reeves voted to approve the state salary increase. Mr. Cherry seconded. All voted in favor. The motion carried.
- b) **Website Audit Update:** The agreement for the website audit was accepted by the Department of Education Office of Civil Rights. The next step is to provide the accessibility link and to run the audit.
- c) **EMCOR Contract Vote:** Ms. Reeves made a motion to approve the EMCOR maintenance contract. Mr. Cherry seconded. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Porter graduated from a cyber security course at Voorhees University. He was congratulated by the board.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm.