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October 13, 2020 Minutes

The board met at 5:15 p.m. at the old Main Library. Present were Anna Marie Jacks, Larissa Davis and Ethel Cogshell, by phone. Also, Tommy Brown, Travis White, Ed Fontenette, Nancy Oudin and Glenda Daniels attended in person.

Also present were Bobbie Morgan, Ricky Williams, Sandra Graves, from the County and Jeannie West.

The meeting was called to order at 5:27 p.m.

Glenda Daniels and Nancy Oudin were welcomed as new board members.

Ed Fontenette moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Nancy Oudin. All approved.

Larissa Davis moved to approve the minutes of the September 2020 meeting, seconded by Ann Marie Jacks. All approved.

The 2019 external audit was presented by Mark Glover of Hudson Cisne. Ed Fontenette moved to accept the report, seconded by Travis White. All approved.

Nancy Oudin moved to approve the profit and loss statement as presented, seconded by Travis White. All approved.

Donald and Gwen Crabb discussed having a statue made of Dr. Ronald McNair, an African American astronaut who died during the launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger. They are interested in placing it on the library grounds. When more information is received, the board will consider this.

Bobbie Morgan highlighted her report. We are making progress on the door weights and handicap access. The noise problem is being addressed by the library's attorney. East Harding and Polk Stanley Wilcox are trying to find a way to lessen the noise level in the library.

Ricky Williams updated the board on the new storage building being put up at the Watson Chapel Branch.

Unfinished Business

Handicap access, the electric bills, wind tunnels and noise are all being looked at by East Harding and Polk Stanley Wilcox for ways to alleviate these problems. The library's attorney, John Baker, has been involved in the mediation process.

John Baker has prepared a document for the mayor's signature for the vacation of the old main library.

Ed Fontenette moved to accept the preliminary budget, seconded by Travis White. After further discussion concerning the cost of a new director, the loss of state funds due to a lack of an MLS employee at the library, the director proposed to work part time from home to give the library board time to find a new director and to safeguard our state funds. Ed Fontenette amended his motion to accept the preliminary budget to include the discussed director's proposal. Nancy Oudin seconded the amended motion. All approved.

New Business

Ribbon cutting and a soft opening is scheduled for November 23, 2020 from 10:00-12:00.

The art work donated to the children's library was tabled until the next meeting, when the board will come up with a name for the artwork.

Jimmy Cunningham is interested in doing a literary walk from the north end to the south end of the library. This will highlight what libraries have to offer their communities as well as spotlight Pine Bluff authors of note. He will be responsible for funding.

A mural was discussed for the first floor of the library, where we had planned to hang the Don Marr. As we are unable to relocate the Don Marr, Bobbie Morgan will speak with Dr. Linton to see if he can get together a group of artists of his caliber to complete this project.

Ed Fontenette moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, December 8, 2020.