



Jane B. Holmes
Helena Public Library
Board Meeting

Meeting Date: December 5, 2024

Submitted by: Ginger Klein, Secretary

Attendance: P=Present A=Absent

Minutes Approved:

P	Mr. Brian Peters, Chair	P	Mr. Dan Dearing (Library Director)
P	Mrs. Karen Scott	P	Mrs. Laura Joseph (City Council Representative)
A	Dr. Michelle Wilson	P	Ms. Nancy Farris
P	Mrs. Ginger Klein	P	Ms. Tracy Arnold (Library employee)

The meeting was called to order at 4:32pm by Mr. Brian Peters. Dr. Wilson was absent from the meeting. The remaining board members were present so there was a quorum.

Mr. Peters asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes from the September 26, 2024 meeting. No corrections/additions were noted. A motion was made by Ms. Scott to approve the September meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Farris. All board members unanimously voted to approve the minutes from September 26, 2024.

New Business:

1. Mr. Dearing provided the Library Report. Key points from his report included:
 - a. Library employees are planning to visit locations of existing StoryWalks in order to obtain information about how they are installed and meet with representatives to determine the cost of installing a StoryWalk for our library. Mr. Dearing hopes to have more to report regarding this at the next meeting.
 - b. The HPL was invited to participate in the Helena Middle School's International Night. The library shared a table with the Diversity Board. It was an opportunity to use the new banner and to promote the library.

- c. The Friends of the Library Holiday Party was held this past Tuesday. Crystal Watford hosted trivia and toys were collected to present to the Police Department for their toy drive.
- d. The City of Helena Christmas Parade is this Saturday afternoon. The theme is "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas". The HPL will have some staff and friends walking in the parade to promote the library. The new banner will be carried.
- e. Mr. Dearing reported that the library staff is busy planning programs. A popular previous program (Knit, Stitch, and Chat) will be returning after the new year. The staff has started decorating for the holidays. Some new shelving has arrived for the main library area and hopefully employees from the police department will assemble it soon.

2. APLS Letter.

- a. Mr. Dearing received a letter from Dr. Nancy Pack, Director of the Alabama Public Library Service, on October 15, 2024 indicating that the HPL Library Board has met the necessary requirements of the Administrative Code pertaining to Supplemental State Aid to Public Libraries. Therefore the HPL is eligible to receive the first quarterly state aid payment. Mr. Dearing reported that a check for \$5,364.32 arrived this week.

3. Mr. Dearing provided the Grant Review.

- a. At the last meeting it was suggested that perhaps some grant money could be used to provide outdoor seating such as picnic tables in the grassy area in the front of the library. Mr. Dearing indicated that they are concerned about patron safety, particularly with regard to traffic, and have decided to focus instead on doing a mini-renovation within the library. They are looking into swapping existing shelving or perhaps purchasing new shelving to facilitate relocating all of the Non-Fiction materials into the "Alabama Room" and incorporating the large print and Alabama-authored books into the general Fiction shelving in the main area of the library. They would also like to relocate the two computer stations from the Alabama room to the main library area. He hopes to have the changes in place before summer.
- b. Vulcan Materials provided a \$1,000 grant. The funding will be used to purchase books and other resources about career opportunities and fitness.
- c. The \$1,000 check from Universal Studios to honor Ladarrion Williams was used to order diverse books per Ms. Scott's suggestion at the last meeting.

4. Summer Reading Theme.
 - a. Mr. Dearing reported that the national theme for the 2025 Summer Reading Program is "Color Our World". The theme is to highlight the arts. He wanted to bring it to the board's attention that a staff member noticed some of the promotional materials had rainbows and was concerned that there may be some backlash from community members because of an incident which occurred this past summer. Mr. Dearing reported that a father called last June during Pride Month after his wife came home from storytime saying that the book was about rainbows. The book in question was Marcus Pfister's The Rainbow Fish. Mr. Dearing was able to appease the father after explaining the premise of the book and that there was no ill intent. The board members reviewed pictures of the promotional materials and decided that the use of rainbows was minimal and did not pose a serious risk. Therefore, there were no objections to using the provided materials.

Old Business:

1. Required Document Review - Bylaws.
 - a. Mr. Peters requested to postpone discussion of the bylaws due to time constraints.
2. Upcoming Board Meeting Dates.
 - a. The next meeting was set for January 16th, 2025 at 4:30pm. Subsequent meeting dates will be determined at that time.
3. Other.
 - a. The board discussed Chairperson and Secretary positions for the next year. Mr. Peters and Mrs. Klein agreed to continue in their roles by acclamation.
4. No one from the public was present, so there were no public comments.

Mr. Peters asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Ms. Scott to adjourn and was seconded by Ms. Farris. The HPL voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:24pm.