

Jasper County Library Board Meeting
4-18-23

Attendees

Stu Shatz Chair

Glenice Watts, Vice-Chair

Sandi Vito, Secretary

Julie Mikols, via Zoom

Carolyn Fortson, Director AHJ Library

Marcia Cleland, Pratt Memorial Library Branch Manager

Darlene Thomas-Burroughs, Hardeeville Library Branch Manager

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes for January 17, 2023 unanimously approved.

Hardeeville Library Report provided by Darlene-Thomas Burroughs

- A leak in the ceiling occurred in April. Only two paperback books were destroyed. All repairs have been completed by the City.
- Significant increase in library usage in the second quarter (October – December) due to early voting hosted by the library. Two hundred and nineteen new library cards issued in the second quarter.
- Volunteers In Tax Assistance (VITA) completed their services on April 17th. Utilization of services was not as high as previous years largely due to VITA opening a second location in Jasper County.
- Other programs in 3rd Quarter included: Storytime, Black History Month activities, Teen Dating and Bluffton Self-Help.
- Upcoming events include:
 - Teen Board Games – April 12
 - Spoken Word Poetry Night – April 21st
 - Puppet Show – April 22nd
 - No “Book” Club – share your favorite book – April 29th
 - Summer Reading Programs – June-August
- All programming is listed on the AHJ Library Website - <https://www.ahjlibrary.org/hardeevillecommunitylibrary>

Comments/Discussion

The Jasper Sun was contacted but never returned calls. Ms. Watts will make another attempt to reach them to ask for the paper to print upcoming library programs.

Pratt Memorial Library Report provided by Marcia Cleland

- Overall utilization has increased.

- Palmetto Speech programs are held twice a week to assist local children who have speech difficulties; 213 children have received services.
- Other programming included: Valentine Party, Dr. Seuss Party, Decorate a Kite program.
- The Red Cross held a disaster preparedness event that was not well attended.
- An Easter Party and children's reading featured former Jasper County Library Board member, Vasilisa Hamilton.

Comments/Discussion

The branch manager asked Board members to attend some of the scheduled events. Board members asked notices to be emailed to them.

Calendar of events available here: <https://www.ahjlibrary.org/prattmemoriallibrary>

AHJ Library Director Report provided by Carolyn Fortson

- Two applications received for the courier vacancy. One applicant is a minor; the second applicant will be interviewed on 4-19-23.
- The migration of SCLends software is ongoing, and staff are receiving training on the new software.
- The Hardeeville van has been serviced; Major break issues were repaired. Funds are needed for the van to be painted. Mr. Shatz volunteered to ask local body shops to donate their services with an acknowledgment placed on the body of the van.
- Policy updates were sent to all Board members. The new policies are pending AHJ Board approval.
- Summer Reading program planning is well underway. Incentive merchandise has been ordered. A schedule of reading times will be posted on the website.
- A staff in-service was held in April. All staff are now certified in CPR and use of defibrillators.
- Final quarter Jasper County allotment has been received by the library. Preparation of budget hearings has begun. The Jasper County Council budget meeting for the library is scheduled for May 1st at 4 p.m. Board members are encouraged to attend.
- Agendas and minutes are now posted on the website.
- Library staff evaluations have begun.
- Strategic Planning will be undertaken this year and will involve the Board

Discussion/Comments

The Director will inquire about and report to the board about the projected \$11,300 annual deficit and whether current fund balances are sufficient to cover the deficit.

Pratt Renovations Update and Discussion

Renovations of the Pratt Memorial Library will begin in September 2023 at which time the site will close. The Pratt Friends group, staff and board members are fundraising to support costs for satellite offices, book collection storage in a temperature-controlled environment, and other issues associated with the renovations and temporary closure of the library.

The Morris Center has agreed to assist with fundraising. In addition, the Friends group will send handwritten notes to local businesses. The Board may also need to request additional funds from County Council. The Director will provide an estimate for temperature-controlled storage.

Hardeeville Stove

The branch manager confirmed the need to remove the stove. The library Director will call the City of Hardeeville and request the stove be removed.

Friends Report

- Hardeeville needs a Friends group leader. Lists of potential Friends members will be sent to the Library Director.
- Pratt Friends is primarily focused on fundraising to support renovations, including creating a calendar to sell. They recently held a meet and greet social.

Bylaw Changes

Notice of proposed by-law changes was provided in the meeting agenda, posted on the AHJ website.

- 1) Sandi Vito motioned to amend bylaws to change: "The meetings begin at ~~7p.m.~~ 6 p.m." Glenice Watts seconded. Motion passed.
- 2) Glenice Watts motioned to amend bylaws to add: "Board meetings are alternated between Pratt and Hardeeville Libraries." Julie Mikols seconded. Motion passed.
- 3) Julie Mikols motioned to amend bylaws to add: "The number of Board positions is seven, consistent with Jasper County guidelines." Glenice Watts seconded. Motion passed.
- 4) Sandi Vito motioned to amend bylaws to change: "The month of Board elections will be ~~April~~ October" beginning after current election. Glenice Watts seconded. Motion Passed.

Notice will be given for an additional bylaw amendment at the next board meeting. The amendment will add "board term lengths."

Election of Officers

Stu Shatz turned over the role of chair to Glenice Watts. Glenice Watts conducted officer elections.

Chair

Julie Mikols was nominated as Chair by Sandi Vito. Julie Mikols accepted nomination. Ms. Watts asked for additional nominations. No additional nominations were made. Julie Mikols elected chair by acclamation.

Vice-Chair

Stu Shatz was nominated as Vice-Chair by Sandi Vito. Stu Shatz accepted the nomination. Ms. Watts requested additional nominations. No additional nominations were made. Mr. Shatz was elected by acclamation.

Secretary

Sandi Vito was nominated as Secretary by Stu Shatz. Vito accepted the nomination. Ms. Watts requested additional nominations. No additional nominations were made. Ms. Vito was elected by acclamation.

Other Business

Julie Mikols motioned that “Stu Shatz act on behalf of Ms. Mikols as Board Chair until mid-May.” Ms. Mikols will return from an extended trip at that time.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Next Meetings:

7/11 AHJ Board Meeting, Estill, 6 p.m.

7/18 Jasper Board Meeting, Pratt, 6 p.m.