

Minutes of the Board of Trustees
William F. Laman Public Library
Special Meeting - Via Zoom
May 20, 2021 @ 1:30 PM

The Board met via Zoom at 1:30 p.m. Ms. McLean called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Those present were Ms. Crystal Gates, Executive Director; Ms. Valerie McLean, President; Mr. Charley Baxter; Ms. Esther Crawford; Ms. Kim Drake; Ms. Vicki Matthews; and Mr. Sonny Rhodes. Ms. Brewer was absent. Also present: Ms. Stacy Purdy, Ms. Shannan Hicks, and Mr. Richard Theilig. There were no public comments.

All present held a discussion regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds being received by the State of Arkansas and how libraries may work together to request a portion of those funds. Ms. Gates reviewed the role of the Advocates for All Arkansas Libraries in working with a local lobbying firm on behalf of all libraries. Ms. Gates, Ms. McLean, and Mr. Baxter met with representatives of Capitol Consulting Firm to discuss their interest in Laman contracting their services in connection with an ARPA fund request. Ms. Gates met with other AAAL officers and with Impact Management to discuss AAAL's role in the request process. AAAL will send out a special project assessment to libraries to fund the project. Ms. Gates recommended that Laman Library contribute to AAAL via the new assessment rather than contract with a firm on its own. The general consensus among both lobbying firms, AAAL, the State Library, and area library directors is that libraries will have a better chance of receiving funding if the request is statewide. Board members agreed with that assessment. Ms. Drake requested notice to the board once a letter campaign begins so that they may advocate for the project. Ms. Matthews requested Ms. Gates to keep the Board informed as the project moves forward.

With no further business to discuss, motion Ms. Crawford, second Mr. Rhodes to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Crystal Gates, Secretary