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Constitution

Adopted by Board of Trustees July 1989, amended November 2003, August 2006

ARTICLE I

The name of the system shall be the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library.

ARTICLE II

The headquarters for the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library shall be located in Fitzgerald, Georgia.

ARTICLE III

The purpose of the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library shall be to furnish library service to the people of the county under the regulations governing public libraries set forth by the state of Georgia.

The Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library shall offer a full program of library services to all citizens of Ben Hill County to meet their informational, educational, and recreational needs; acquire and purchase library materials; circulate materials to the public through the member libraries or by other appropriate means of library extension; develop existing libraries and establish and develop member libraries, deposits, bookmobile and other services as appropriate to the needs of the service area; build a reference collection adequate to provide current and reliable information of a research nature as demanded by the needs of the communities comprising the area served; and promote the use of library resources by means of instruction, library-centered programs, exhibits, and other public relations media.

ARTICLE IV

The Fitzgerald- Ben Hill County Library System shall serve all citizens of the country through library located in Fitzgerald, bookmobile, and other extension services.

ARTICLE V

The legal authority for public libraries and boards of trustees is described in Title 20, Chapter 5, Article 5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, amended March 26, 1984.

ARTICLE VI

Section 1.

The governing body of the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library shall consist of a board of Library Trustees composed of trustees who are appointed to the County Library Board by the governmental agencies financially supporting the library on a regular basis, as specified in state law. The Board of Trustees shall be composed of nine (9) members, one of whom shall be the Mayor of the City of Fitzgerald to serve Ex-Officio. , and one of whom shall be the Chairman of the Ben Hill County Commission to serve Ex-Officio. The County Commissioners shall appoint three members; the Fitzgerald City Council shall appoint four members. The operation of the County Library System is legally vested in this Board under the provisions of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Article 2, Chapter 5, Title 20.

Section 2.

The term of office shall be three years, with starting and ending dates corresponding to the library's fiscal year. Members may be reappointed.

Section 3.

Board members shall receive no compensation but may be reimbursed for any reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of library business, or if stipulated in the terms of any bequest or gift. Membership dues or fees for individual membership of Board members in state, regional and national library associations may be paid from operating funds.

Section 4.

Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as appointments are made. If a vacancy occurs prior to the expiration of a trustee's term the new appointee shall complete the unexpired term.

Section 5.

Additional representatives shall be added from any governmental agencies which may, in the future, choose to financially support the library on a regular basis.

ARTICLE VII

Section 1.

The officers of the Board shall be a Chairman, a vice Chairman, a Secretary, and other officers shall perform the duties prescribed by the bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Board.

Section 2.

The officers shall be elected at the January meeting to serve one year or until their successors are elected, and their terms of office shall begin at the close of the meeting at which they are elected.

Section 3.

The Director, the Assistant Director, the Board Chairman, and any members of staff authorized to handle library funds shall be bonded for the amount commensurate with the amount of the funds handled, determined by the Board and entered in the minutes, and a copy of the bond filed with the Georgia Public Library Service of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

Section 4.

All Federal, State, and local funds used for the operation and improvement of the services and facilities of the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library System shall be received by the Director and shall be used in accordance with the budget approved by the Board.

ARTICLE VIII

An Executive Committee, composed of the officers of the Board, shall be entrusted to govern in the name of the Board of Trustees between meetings of the Board.

ARTICLE IX

Special committees may be appointed by the Chairman as needed.

ARTICLE X

The Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library may enter into cooperative endeavors with other library systems for the purpose of sharing personnel, materials, and services by the confederation or by the merger as seen fit by the governing bodies of the library systems. Such cooperative endeavors must be within the limits of funds available to the Board of Trustees, conducive to mutual growth and development of library services, and not in Violation of state or federal laws, regulations, or other agreements, contracts or Library Board policies.

ARTICLE XI

The Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library System is authorized to make and enter unto such contracts or agreements, for all or any part of the County Library System as are deemed necessary and desirable under the provisions of Article 2, Chapter 5, Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (20-5-49).

ARTICLE XII

This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the Board of Trustees by a two thirds vote of the members present, provided that notice is made in writing at t=least two weeks prior to the meeting, and provided that a quorum is present. All amendments to the Constitution will be filed with the Georgia Public Library Service of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia immediately upon adoption.

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE VI, Section 1. Amended November 4, 2003

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE VI, Section 2. Amended August 17, 2006