

Elbert County Library District dba Pines & Plains Libraries
Board of Trustees Study Session Minutes
November 29, 2023

The Board of Trustees of the Pines & Plains Libraries met for a study session at the Elizabeth Branch.

1. Roll Call: Board Members present: Robert Thomasson, Alan Krenek, RuthAnn Stricker
Staff Present: Director Susan Byrne, Branch Managers Kim Miller and Kathy Wilkinson (virtually)
Guest: Anders Dahlgren of Library Planning Associates
2. Small Group Meetings: Mr. Dahlgren met with groups around the community to get feedback about the library. The meetings have been small, however, the feedback has been good. The meetings scheduled in Agate and the Northwest corner did not have any attendees.
3. Community Feedback: Community members gave high praise to Pines & Plains staff, and the interlibrary loan system in place. Individuals in the community think of the library as a meeting place.
4. Issues That Libraries Face:
Volumes held per capita peaked in 2003 and have been on the decline since. Since the pandemic, the public is reluctant to attend library programming.
5. Community Needs of the Library:
Small group study rooms: A space for two to six individuals
Large group meeting rooms: A space for larger scale meetings and events
Quiet Zones: A space for individuals that is quiet and “click-free”
Technology rooms: A space that has teleconference capabilities
Welcoming atmosphere: Improved brightness of the library through windows, lighting, and paint color. More seating to be made available in the front of libraries. Lower book shelving for accessibility.
Young Patrons: The library remains an important place for children and teens to be able to visit and hang out.
Programming & Activities: Individuals need a reason to leave the house. Activities give people the chance for community engagement and socialization.
6. Adjourn: The meeting ended at 4:55 p.m.

Special meeting will be held on Thursday, January 04, 2024 at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Nat Nelson, Administrative Assistant