

Scenic Regional Library  
Board Minutes – April 16, 2024

Scenic Regional Library Board of Trustees met at the Scenic Regional Library Union Branch on April 16, 2024 at 6:56 pm. Board President John Cheatham presided at the meeting. Board members attending the meeting were John Barry, Bob Niebruegge, Laura Hengstenberg, Linda Andrae, Susan Richardson, Sarah Rothermich, Carla Robertson, Joy Dufrain and Martha Lindsley. Board members Paula Sutton, Karen Holtmeyer and Kathi Ham were absent.

Library Director Steven Campbell, Assistant Library Director Megan Maurer, Director of Business and Human Resources Kjersti Merseal, and Administrative Assistant Bree Hendrickson were also present.

There were no public comments.

**Public Comments**

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. They were approved as presented.

**Approval of Minutes**

Director Campbell stated that the Library is 75% through the budget for this fiscal year and that all sections are under the 70% mark even with our bond payment being made. Director Campbell pointed out that collected revenue was at 98.8% and that he believed it would exceed 100% this year.

**Financial Report**

***Financial Report stands approved as presented.***

**Reports:**

The library received a Request for Reconsideration of Resources for the book “Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy: A Modern Retelling of Little Women” by Ray Terico and Bre Indigo on April 1. In 2022, the Scenic Regional Library Board of Trustees created a committee, composed of the library’s five professional librarians, to review all materials challenges. The committee met on April 8 and reviewed the book. It considered whether the items should be removed from the library’s collection, or moved to the young adult or adult section of the library. There were four professional reviews found for the book. Three were positive and one was neutral. The library has two copies of the book in our collection, which have been checked out 64 times since being added to the collection. There was no graphic sexual content in the book; hand holding was the only imagery of physical contact. As a result, the committee agreed unanimously to keep the title in the collection. The committee also discussed whether or not the book should be moved to the young adult or adult sections. The library places new materials in sections based on publisher recommendations, professional review recommendations, book vendor recommendations, and reading level. There are eleven other libraries in the Missouri Evergreen consortium who own the title, and it has been placed in the juvenile section by ten of those eleven. Ultimately, it was decided that the majority of age recommendations for the book supported its placement in the

**Material Reconsideration Request**

juvenile fiction section. In addition, the book has been in the juvenile fiction section for five years and has enjoyed high usage. As a result, the committee agreed unanimously that the title should be kept in the library's juvenile fiction section.

**Hermann Branch  
Art Gallery Exhibit  
Opens**

Friday, April 5, the Library's "At Play" exhibit opened at the Hermann branch gallery. Director Campbell informed the Board that this was the gallery's largest turnout ever, with over 300 people in attendance. He also stated that the gallery sold over \$2,500 in art work.

**Library Auditor**

Director Campbell informed the Board that the Library's auditor Tammy Alsop at Sikich, LLP was retiring. Sikich, LLP did provide the names of three firms. Associate Director Kjersti Merseal sent the firms a bid request and has been in communication with one of the firms. Director Campbell stated that the hope is to receive at least one bid soon.

**St. Clair Branch  
Security Camera  
System**

An objective of the Library's strategic plan is hardwiring all the security systems at the branches to provide better-quality images. Director Campbell stated that Hermann, Wright City, and now St. Clair all have hard wired security systems.

**Zoom Phones**

As part of the Library's strategic plan, the phone system is being upgraded. This will provide new phones and a new phone service provider. Director Campbell stated that the new provider, Zoom, informed the Library that New Haven would require a "1" being dialed first in order to place the call. The only way to avoid this would be to leave New Haven on Fidelity's phone service while all other branches were migrated to Zoom. Director Campbell expressed to the Board that this would be costlier and the Board agreed that all the branches should be on the same service provider.

**Unfinished  
Business:**

**Proposed Incident  
Report Policy**

An incident report policy was proposed last month. The Library Board tabled the policy until some questions about the policy regarding open records requests could be answered. Director Campbell contacted the Library's attorney, Dave Politte, with some questions regarding Sunshine Law and incidents involving minors. Taking Mr. Politte's response into consideration, Director Campbell stated that if the Library gets a public records/sunshine law request it will comply with Missouri Sunshine Law, in consultation with its legal counsel. Director Campbell suggested to the Board that the language be added to the policy.

**Bob Niebruegge made a motion to accept the Proposed Incident Report Policy. Martha Lindsley seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.**

Director Campbell suggested a revision to the Vacation Policy that would clarify a few lines that seemed contradictory. Director Campbell suggested to the Board that the lines be deleted from the policy all together to avoid any confusion.

**Proposed Revision to the Vacation Policy**

**Sarah Rothermich made a motion to accept the Proposed Revision to the Vacation Policy. Bob Niebruegge seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.**

**New Business:**

The Library Foundation Board of Directors has two vacancies, one for Gasconade County and one for Warren County. Director Campbell informed the Board that there was a proposed candidate for each vacancy. Karen Gironde for Warren County and Robyn Fleming for Gasconade County. Director Campbell expressed that both candidates would be excellent additions to the Library Foundation's Board of Directors.

**Proposed Library Foundation Board Members**

**Joy Dufraim made a motion to accept the Proposed Library Foundation Board Members. Carla Robertson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.**

Director Campbell stated that he met with the Washington Public Library Board of Trustees back in February and proposed an increase in the per-item fee from 70 cents to \$1.00. They approved the proposed agreement at their March meeting.

**Proposed Revisions to the Washington Public Library Cooperative Service Agreement**

**John Barry made a motion to accept the Proposed Revisions to the Washington Public Library Cooperative Service Agreement. Susan Richardson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.**

The Library's strategic plan for 2024-2026 and the Missouri Public Library Standards both call for the library to have an Emergency Closing Policy. Director Campbell stated that the proposed policy reflects the way that the library has addressed emergency closings for the past twelve years.

**Proposed Emergency Closing Policy**

**Joy Dufraim made a motion to accept the Proposed Emergency Closing Policy. Laura Hengstenberg seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.**

Director Campbell briefly spoke about Susan Richardson and Laura Hengstenberg coming up for reappointment to the Board this summer. He asked if they would like to be reappointed; they both said yes.

*There being no further business, John Cheatham moved to adjourn the Adjourn meeting at 7:48 pm.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
President, Scenic Regional Library Board of Trustees

Date: \_\_\_\_\_