

Scenic Regional Library
Board Minutes – April 19, 2022

Scenic Regional Library Board of Trustees met at the Scenic Regional Library St. Clair Branch on April 19, 2022 at 7:00 pm. Board President Karen Holtmeyer presided at the meeting. Board members attending the meeting were Joy Dufraim, John Barry, Linda Andrae, Michele Fehlings, Laura Hengstenberg, John Cheatham, Martha Lindsley, Susan Richardson, and Carla Robertson. Board members Paula Sutton, Kathleen Ham, and Robert Niebruegge were absent.

Library Director Steven Campbell, Associate Director of Business and Human Resources Kjersti Merseal, and Administrative Assistant Erica Mosley were also present.

New Haven Friends of the Library members Rhonda Helling, Dot Schowe, and Cathy Hoemeyer were also present.

Rhonda Helling said the New Haven Friends group is concerned about the Board's decision to have one branch manager split between the New Haven and Hermann branches. She said New Haven has always had a full-time librarian. She has noticed circulation and Friends of the Library membership are both down at the branch, and fears programming will be negatively impacted. Scenic Regional Library Foundation Board Vice President Dot Schowe said with the new Hermann branch getting ready to open, her "heart goes out to the manager having to tend to the needs of a new branch and to New Haven's as well." She believes things will suffer in the long run.

Public Comments

Michele Fehlings said the Board had agreed that the workload seemed manageable, although it will be an adjustment. She was confident Administration will reevaluate the situation if proves necessary. Director Campbell said additional part-time staff is being hired at both branches, to allow the manager more off-desk time to allow for managerial tasks. The manager will still be expected to attend all Friends and community meetings and to engage fully with activities and events. He said if performance suffers at either branch it will be addressed at that point, and a second full time manager position can be added back if necessary. The Library is trying to find creative ways to reduce costs in order to raise salaries, to better retain all staff. He also noted that circulation and Friends membership is still down system-wide, due to COVID, not just at New Haven. Karen Holtmeyer believes patrons are using more online services rather than coming inside the Library, and that the pandemic taught people new ways of using the Library. Dot Schowe hopes they can meet the new manager at the May 4 Friends meeting. She also commended New Haven branch Library Assistant Nathan Bailey, saying she believes he "can handle anything."

The New Haven Friends left the meeting at 7:17.

Michele Fehlings made the motion to approve the March 15, 2022 minutes. Susan Richardson seconded the motion. All voted Aye. The motion carried 9/0.

Approval of Minutes

Linda Andrae entered the meeting at 7:18.

Director Campbell presented the Financial Report. The Operations budget is slightly over. He announced to staff last week that the Library is putting a halt to all non-essential expenditures until the end of the fiscal year. It was quickly discovered the Library does not have many non-essential expenditures. He said the Library will still end the year under budget. He believes pandemic-related inflation has contributed to the rising cost of Operations.

Financial Report

John Barry is pleased with passport revenue.

John Barry made the motion to approve the Financial Report. Martha Lindsley seconded the motion. All voted Aye. The motion carried 10/0.

Director Campbell presented the Reports.

Reports

Soil boring at the Marthasville lot, delayed due to rain, has begun.

New Business

Director Campbell presented the proposed new Collection Development Policy. The Board discussed recent news events about book challenges around the country and the state. Erica Mosley suggested adding a question to the Request for Reconsideration of Materials form: "Have you read the Library's Collection Development Policy? Y/N" The Board agreed.

Proposed Collection Development Policy

John Cheatham made the motion to approve the Collection Development Policy as amended. Susan Richardson seconded the motion. All voted Aye. The motion carried 10/0.

Joy Dufraim made the motion to approve the Library Mission Statement. Linda Andrae seconded the motion. All voted Aye. The motion carried 10/0.

Proposed Library Mission Statement

Director Campbell said the Library's architect was in conversation with five HVAC companies about the proposed HVAC upgrades, but only one submitted a bid: C&S Heating and Cooling. The other companies said they don't currently have the manpower to do the work at so many locations. However, Director Campbell said the one bid received is a reasonable bid, in line with what Henderson estimated. Henderson identified five branches that need the HVAC work done: New Haven, Owensville, Sullivan, Pacific, and Wright City. Henderson said that the same work could be done at the St. Clair and Warrenton branches as well, even though there weren't humidity issues at the other two, in order to standardize the HVAC systems at all locations. The Board discussed the options: to do the work at only five branches, or at seven for an additional \$12,000.

HVAC Bids

John Barry made the motion to approve the bid from C&S Heating and Cooling for HVAC upgrades at five branches: New Haven, Owensville, Sullivan, Pacific, and Wright City. Laura Hengstenberg seconded the motion. All voted Aye. The motion carried 10/0.

The Board discussed the picture book *Mr. Watson's Chickens* by Jarrett Dapier. A New Haven branch patron objected to the depiction of a same-sex couple in a children's picture book. Another New Haven patron recently requested a list of all LGBT+ books at the branch. The list included 30-32 items. The branch has a total of 7,650 children's books. Director Campbell does not feel this is an overrepresentation of LGBT+ materials in the collection. The Board agreed. Susan Richardson said it is for parents to decide if they don't want their children looking at a particular book in the Library. Director Campbell said the patron offered a compromise to removing the book: to label it LGBT. Michele Fehlings said other books aren't labeled with content warnings because of things like sexual content, violence, or language. Linda Andrae is strongly in favor of books with inclusive representation of all genders, races, and family structures. She said a child who has parents or grandparents who are a same-sex couple can see themselves represented in this book.

Patron Request to Remove a Picture Book from the Library Collection

Michele Fehlings made the motion to not remove Mr. Watson's Chickens from the collection, and to not use a LGBT label on any book. Carla Robertson seconded the motion. All voted Aye. The motion carried 10/0.

There was no unfinished business.

Unfinished Business

John Cheatham made the motion to move to Executive Session. Susan Richardson seconded the motion.

**Closed Session—
RSMo 610.021 (2)
Real Estate and (1)
Legal**

The Board decided not to enter Closed Session, as all relevant information was already covered in the Board packet.

There was a roll call vote to move into Executive Session: Karen Holtmeyer—No, Joy Dufrain—No, John Barry—No, Linda Andrae—No, Michele Fehlings—No, Laura Hengstenberg—No, John Cheatham—No, Martha Lindsley—No, Susan Richardson—No, Carla Robertson—No.

The Board discussed the vandalism and drug use among middle school students at the Wright City branch, and strategies to get a security guard or SRO installed at the branch.

Michele Fehlings left the meeting at 8:02.

There being no further business, Board President Karen Holtmeyer adjourned the meeting at 8:04 pm.

Adjourn

Secretary

Approved: _____
President, Scenic Regional Library Board of Trustees

Date: _____