

Scenic Regional Library
Board Minutes – June 16, 2025

Scenic Regional Library Board of Trustees met at the Scenic Regional Library Union Branch on June 16, 2025 at 7:00 pm. Board President Joy Dufrain presided at the meeting. Board members attending the meeting were John Barry, John Cheatham, Bob Niebruegge, Kathi Ham, Sarah Rothermich, Carla Robertson, Jennifer Schwentker, Karen Holtmeyer, Linda Andrae and Susan Richardson. Board members Laura Hengstenberg and Martha Lindsley 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.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

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

Approval of Minutes

Director Campbell stated that we have spent 88.41% of the budget year. He said that our expenditures were around \$765,000 in May, and that about \$100,000 of that was for the concrete work in Warrenton and another \$100,000 was paid to ServPro for cleaning from the flood at Hermann. Director Campbell informed the Board that we have collected 102% of our projected revenue and that by the end of the fiscal year we may end up around 103%.

Financial Report

Bob Niebruegge made a motion to approve the Financial Report. John Barry seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.

Reports:

Director Campbell informed the Board that Senate Bill 3 was passed by the Missouri Senate on June 5. It was passed by the Missouri Assembly on June 11 and the Governor said that he will sign it. The bill would provide funding for up to 50% of the cost of renovations at the Chief's Arrowhead Stadium and new downtown stadium for the Royals, among other things. The bill includes a provision that requires each county to place a property tax freeze initiative on the ballot by April 2026. Director Campbell stated that he believes a lawsuit will be filed to strip the tax freeze portion out while allowing the stadium deal to still go through.

Senate Bill 3

Director Campbell stated that Scenic Regional Library had donated some old computers to the Gerald Library in the past. They reached out to us and said that the old operating system would not update, making it difficult for the computers to function. Director Campbell had our Technology Manager, Denise Edwards, donate 5 computers that are running on Windows 11 operating systems to the Gerald Library. These computers were "older" computers that we had taken from the branches as we replaced them with newer ones.

Gerald Library Computers

Director Campbell updated the Board on the progress of the renovations at the Hermann branch. He said that this week they were taping and mudding, next week the painting should begin, and in the following weeks carpet and flooring will arrive. It will take a few weeks for the flooring to be installed. Director Campbell also said that we are aiming to have the restrooms and our tenant spaces complete sooner.

Hermann Branch Updates

Unfinished Business:

Director Campbell provided the Board with some minor language changes to Personnel Policy. He said it was things like changing 401(k) to 457(b) along with a few other contradictions. He said that he would continue to provide a section at a time and that by the November Board meeting we should be finished and will approve it all at once at that time.

Personnel Policy Review

New Business:

As previously discussed, McGrath Human Resources Group recommended tying the Library's new salary ranges to inflation. Last year, the Board said that they wanted to consider and approve the salary range adjustments each year. The annual inflation rate for the United States was 2.4% for the 12 months ending May. Director Campbell stated that as a result, the proposed salary ranges for FY 2025-2026 have all been increased 2.4%. Director Campbell requested that the Board approve the proposed salary ranges for FY 2025-2026.

Proposed Salary Ranges for FY 2025-2026

John Barry made a motion to approve the proposed salary ranges for FY 2025-2026. Kathi Ham seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.

Director Campbell provided the Board with the proposed preliminary FY 2025-2026 annual budget. The Library is required to submit an annual budget to the county commissions by June 30 under Missouri Law. Director Campbell stated that in this budget were funds for a new library vehicle to replace the aging one. He also stated that our Lagers contribution rate decreased from 23.3% to 23%. It was the first decrease in the past 13 years. Director Campbell requested that the Board approve the proposed Preliminary FY 2025-2026 Budget.

Proposed Preliminary FY 2025-2026 Annual Budget

John Cheatham made a motion to approve the proposed Preliminary FY 2025-2026 Annual Budget. Kathi Ham seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.

Director Campbell stated that according to the Library Board's bylaws, Gasconade County Board member Kathi Ham will move up to President. Due to the passing of Franklin County Board member Paula Sutton, the vice president position is vacant, and must be a Board member from Franklin County. Warren County Board member Karen Holtmeyer will move up to secretary. The new treasurer must be a Board member from Gasconade County.

Election of Library Board of Trustees' Officers for FY 2025-2026

Board member Laura Hengstenberg from Gasconade County volunteered to be the treasurer. Board member Jennifer Schwentker from Franklin County was nominated to be vice president.

Carla Robertson made a motion to nominate Laura Hengstenberg of Gasconade County to become Treasurer and Jennifer Schwentker of Franklin County to become Vice President. Susan Richardson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.

Director Campbell stated that with the passing of Board member Paula Sutton, that it was necessary to remove her from the account and appoint another Board member as a signatory. Board member Jennifer Schwentker volunteered.

**Change of Bank
Account Signatories**

John Barry made a motion to remove Paula Sutton as a signatory from the United Bank accounts. Sarah Rothermich seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.

Bob Niebruegge made a motion to add Board member Jennifer Schwentker as the United Bank accounts as a signatory. Carla Robertson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.

Director Campbell informed the Board that during the Missouri Public Library Directors' meetings earlier this month, there was a session presented by the Missouri Securities Investment Program (MOSIP). MOSIP invests over \$4 billion in assets from political subdivisions around Missouri. Director Campbell stated that the two main investment options for MOSIP are their liquid account and their CD's. Director Campbell went on to explain the interest rates offered by MOSIP and what our current interest rates are with United Bank of Union. The Library Board requested that Director Campbell have a representative of MOSIP come speak to the Board further about the organization. Director Campbell said that he would reach out to MOSIP to set something up for August.

**Missouri Securities
Investment
Program (MOSIP)**

Director Campbell met with Elliot Reed with Cochran Engineering and Ken Scheer with Horn Architects about the Hermann building drainage issues. Mr. Reed explained the drainage issues at the location. Mr. Reed said that nothing could be done to guarantee the building would never flood again. Director Campbell asked him to submit a proposal to study the situation and provide recommendations. The study will determine whether the drainage capacity for the 4'x4' concrete culver that runs beneath the library's parking lot, as well as the drainage pipes leading to that pipe, are adequate for various storm events. The cost for the study is \$16,500.

**Hermann Building
Engineering Study
Proposal**

Carla Robertson made a motion to accept the Hermann Building Engineering Study Proposal from Cochran Engineering. John Barry seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) provides flood insurance for individuals and businesses in participating communities, offering financial protection against flood damage. Ted Schroeder, the library's insurance broker, obtained a quote for flood insurance on the Hermann branch through the NFIP. Mr. Schroeder also asked five private carriers for flood insurance quotes; he's still awaiting these quotes. Unlike the NFIP coverage, private insurers will not cover a single location and we would need to incorporate the library's overall liability and property coverage, and apply to all branches. Mr. Schroeder felt that this would cost substantially more than going with the NFIP.

Flood Insurance Coverage Options

Bob Niebruegge made a motion to initiate the NFIP flood insurance application process for the Hermann branch with a \$10,000 deductible (\$29,746 annual premium). Karen Holtmeyer seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.

The Library received a book challenge for a children's book, "Prince and Knight," by Daniel Haack, that had been previously challenged in January of 2025. Director Campbell informed the Board that the committee previously met to discuss the same book and it was determined that it would stay in the collection and the section they currently reside in. Director Campbell asked the Board to approve that the committee not meet about the book. Instead, he would send the patron a response to explain the committee's previous decision, which was to keep the book in the collection and children's section. A formal change to the Collection Development Policy will be proposed in August.

Book Challenge

John Barry made a motion to approve the committee not meeting about the book. Bob Niebruegge seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried 11-0.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Joy Dufrain adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Secretary

Approved: _____
President, Scenic Regional Library Board of Trustees

Date: _____