

Scenic Regional Library
Board Minutes – March 16, 2021

Scenic Regional Library Board of Trustees met at the Scenic Regional Library Union Branch in Union, Missouri on March 16, 2021 at 7:00 pm. Board President Susan Richardson presided at the meeting. Board members attending the meeting were John Barry, Karen Holtmeyer, Kathleen Ham, Joy Dufraim, Michele Fehlings, John Cheatham, Robert Niebruegge, and Martha Lindsley. Carla Robertson and Paula Sutton joined the meeting via Zoom. Linda Andrae was absent. Library Director Steven Campbell, Assistant Library Director Megan Maurer, Business and Human Resource Manager Kjersti Merseal, Administrative Assistant Erica Mosley, Ken Scheer, Robert Lindsley, and Tammy Emily also attended.

Tammy Emily of Sullivan read a statement she prepared voicing her concerns about the Library's mask requirement. She has avoided using the Library for a year because of the shutdown and the mask requirement. An undiagnosed medical issue makes it difficult for her to wear a mask. She said using the online catalog and curbside service is daunting for her young children, whom she homeschools. Director Campbell said the Library is following CDC guidelines and that he would write Ms. Emily a letter in response more fully explaining the Library's stance.

Public Comments

John Cheatham made the motion to accept the February 16, 2021 minutes as written. Karen Holtmeyer seconded the motion. All voted Aye. The motion carried 11/0.

Approval of Minutes

Director Campbell presented the Financial Report. The Library is 66% through the fiscal year but has only spent 55% of the budget. Architectural fees for the Hermann project have been appearing under capital expenses, making that line go over budget; those fees will now be moved to the budget surplus, which was the Library's original plan. The bond payment has been made and will appear in next month's report. The Charles Butler Trust has been paid off, which will free up about \$20,000 in the budget next year.

Financial Report

John Barry made the motion to accept the Financial Report. Joy Dufraim seconded the motion. All voted Aye. The motion carried 11/0.

Reports

Director Campbell said that since writing his report, eBay has removed all listings for the six Dr. Seuss books that will no longer be published due to racist or insensitive content. This may help curb the theft of these books from libraries; however, the Library will continue to keep these titles behind the circulation desk until it seems safe to put them back on the shelf. Some staff were worried the Library is censoring the titles but this is not true. Patrons can still access them. The books are just being guarded because if they are stolen they will be too expensive to replace.

Administration is working out some "bugs" in the Teacher Assistance program, after receiving feedback from branch managers about the form. The new launch date is April 1. Administration has decided to include private schools and daycares, and is currently discussing whether to include homeschools.

The Franklin County Health Department will be able to vaccinate many more people now that they are using the old Union building. In their previous space, they could only vaccinate 80 people per day, three days a week. In this larger space they can vaccinate 300 people per day, three days a week. The MOU agreement allows them to use the meeting rooms at other branches as well, and they would then vaccinate the staff at those branches. However, they have not yet shown an interest in using the branches.

Besides damage at Library buildings, the subzero temperatures also caused a large crack across the Union branch parking lot. The engineering company looked at the lot and said it was a natural heaving process due to the temperatures. Administration is gathering quotes to have the crack sealed.

The Board revisited the Library's mask requirement for patrons. Staff has encountered a lot of pushback against the requirement. Police had to remove a patron from the St. Clair branch last week for refusing to wear a mask. Administration has issued a new survey to gauge staff support for continuing the requirement. Support among frontline staff has dropped from 79% to 61%. Megan Maurer said frontline staff are doing a great job enforcing the requirement. However, they are absorbing a lot of hateful language from a small number of patrons, and have been called "Nazis" and "baby killers." Director Campbell pointed out that overall, the number of incidents is still relatively small and most patrons are complying; however, the negative interactions are always the ones that stand out. The policy remains unchanged for now.

The carpets have been cleaned at the Owensville branch, ahead of schedule. Warrenton and Wright City will be cleaned this weekend. The remaining branches will be cleaned in April.

There was no unfinished business.

Unfinished Business

New Business

Ken Scheer, of Horn Architects, presented the design plan for the proposed Hermann branch to the Board. He said the goal is to keep the appearance of the branch consistent with the other branches in the system, to maintain branding.

New Hermann Branch Design Presentation

The plan has two storage areas for system-wide use. One is in the center of the building and is accessible to delivery people. It will house fishing poles, sewing machines, cake pans, and other specialty items. The other, on the northern side of the building, will have drive-up access for maintenance staff and replace the storage unit the Library currently leases. Susan Richardson would like this storage area to be made bigger than what was shown on the plan.

John Barry liked the gallery space and said it is essential in an artistic community like Hermann. John Cheatham wants the letters that spell LIBRARY on the front fascia to be a darker color so that they are more visible from the road. Mr. Scheer said engineers are currently working on solutions to the parking lot drainage issues. Planters, new curbing, re-grading, and possibly an area drain will be used.

The plans for the new building are 80% completed. Director Campbell said if the Board approves the plan, Mr. Scheer will be able to proceed with the small remaining details like data ports and security camera placement, so that the plans are ready to go out for bid in August. Martha Lindsley said the sooner the better for approving the plan, because of inflation and interest rates possibly going up. Joy Dufrain said since the Board liked the plan they should go forward with approval. Robert Niebruegge said the sooner the building is done, the sooner the Library can get a tenant.

Joy Dufrain made the motion to approve the presented design plan for the new Hermann branch. Martha Lindsley seconded the motion. All voted Aye. The motion carried 11/0.

Robert Niebruegge made the motion to move to closed session. John Cheatham seconded the motion.

**Closed Session-
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There was a roll call vote to move into Executive Session: Susan Richardson—Aye, John Barry—Aye, Karen Holtmeyer—Aye, Kathleen Ham—Aye, Joy Dufrain—Aye, Michele Fehlings—Aye, John Cheatham—Aye, Robert Niebruegge—Aye, Martha Lindsley—Aye, Carla Robertson—Aye, Paula Sutton—Aye.

The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:25 pm.

There was a roll call vote to move out of Executive Session: Susan Richardson—Aye, John Barry—Aye, Karen Holtmeyer—Aye, Kathleen Ham—Aye, Joy Dufrain—Aye, Michele Fehlings—Aye, John Cheatham—Aye, Robert Niebruegge—Aye, Martha Lindsley—Aye, Carla Robertson—Aye, Paula Sutton—Aye.

The Library Board returned from Executive Session at 8:37 pm.

There being no further business, Board President Susan Richardson Adjourn adjourned the meeting at 8:39 pm.

Secretary

Approved: _____
President, Scenic Regional Library Board of Trustees

Date: _____