

Scenic Regional Library  
Board Minutes – May 21, 2024

Scenic Regional Library Board of Trustees met at the Scenic Regional Library Union Branch on May 21, 2024 at 7:00 pm. Board President John Cheatham presided at the meeting. Board members attending the meeting were John Barry, Karen Holtmeyer, Bob Niebruegge, Paula Sutton, Linda Andrae, Susan Richardson, Sarah Rothermich, Kathi Ham, Carla Robertson, Joy Dufraim and Martha Lindsley. Board member Laura Hengstenberg was absent.

Library Director Steven Campbell, Assistant Director Megan Maurer, Associate Director 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 April minutes. They were approved as presented.

**Approval of Minutes**

Director Campbell stated that the Library is 83.3% through the budget for this fiscal year. Director Campbell indicated that we have collected 98.9% of our revenue projections. He expects that the Library will finish the year with a surplus of a few hundred thousand dollars.

**Financial Report**

**Reports:**

*Financial Report stands approved as presented.*

Director Campbell introduced 3 new staff members to the Board. Ed Gervain, the new Union Branch Manager, has 17 years of Library experience and previously worked at the Chicago Public Library. Sydney Lewis, the new Sullivan Branch Manager, was the previous branch manager at the Crawford County Public Library. Macee Jarvis, the new Circulation Coordinator, worked for Scenic Regional Library as the Union Branch Manager and later worked at the Las Vegas Clark County Public Library before returning to Scenic Regional.

**Introductions of New Staff**

The Missouri Assembly did not pass legislation to clarify the senior citizen property tax freeze this session. The Warren County Commission has already passed a resolution to implement the tax freeze beginning in 2025. Director Campbell stated that with 95% of the Library's revenue being derived from property taxes, and 33% of people living in the district being over 65 years old, the measure will have a serious negative impact on revenue growth in coming years.

**Legislative Update**

Director Campbell briefly spoke about the Art Gallery at the Hermann Branch. With the Parker Hannifin grant and sales from the current exhibit, which have been much higher than normal, the Gallery is profitable ("break even") for the first time over the past two years.

**Gallery at the Library**

Director Campbell stated that the Spring 2024 Book Sale was our second highest grossing sale ever, with the Pacific, St. Clair, Sullivan, Union, Warrenton and Wright City branches having their highest sales to date.

**Spring Book Sale**

There was no unfinished business.

**Unfinished Business:**

**New Business:**

As previously reported, on March 22 the Library received a termination letter from its auditor, Tammy Alsop, with Sikich, LLP. She will be retiring on June 30, 2024. Sikich provided the Library with two auditors to contact. Associate Director Kjersti Merseal obtained quotes from the two firms: Botz, Deal & Company, P.C., and Few Certified Public Accountants, P.C. Director Campbell informed the Board that Botz, Deal & Company, P.C., quote was more than twice as high as Few Certified Public Accountants, P.C. Director Campbell read to the Library Board emails from three other Missouri libraries with positive feedback about Few Certified Public Accountants, P.C. Director Campbell recommended that the Board award the contract for auditing services to Few Certified Public Accounts, P.C., for \$9,500 and continue to have Associate Director Kjersti Merseal file the Foundation’s 990 tax return. He will continue the discussion with Few about auditing the Foundation, too.

**Award of the Library’s Contract for Auditing Services**

*Bob Niebruegge made a motion to award the contract for auditing services to Few Certified Public Accountants, P.C. and to have Associate Director Kjersti Merseal continue to file the Foundation’s 990 tax return. Joy Dufraim seconded the motion. Eleven Board members voted aye. Carla Robertson abstained. The motion carried 11-0-1.*

**Adjourn**

*There being no further business, John Cheatham moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 pm.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

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

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