

Scenic Regional Library
Board Minutes – October 18, 2022

Scenic Regional Library Board of Trustees met at the Scenic Regional Library Union Branch on October 18, 2022 at 7:00 pm. Board Vice-President John Cheatham presided at the meeting. Board members attending the meeting were Joy Dufrain, John Barry, Carla Robertson, Susan Richardson, John Cheatham, Sarah Rothermich, Kathleen Ham, Laura Hengstenberg, Karen Holtmeyer, Martha Lindsley and Linda Andrea.

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

There were no public comments.

Public Comments

No changes were made to the September 20, 2022 minutes. Minutes stand as presented.

Approval of Minutes

Director Campbell said that approximately 21-22 percent of current budget is spent. Most of the library's revenue arrives in December and January.

Financial Report

Susan Richardson made the motion to approve the Financial Report. Joy Dufrain seconded the motion. All voted Aye. The motion carried 11/0.

Director Campbell reports that the library's attorney drafted an agreement between the library and Gasconade Historical Society to allow the library to lend its microfilm at the Hermann Branch. The agreement automatically renews annually. The library is close to delivering the microfilm to the Gasconade Historical Society.

Reports

Director Campbell states that the information on the Pacific Branch Patio is going to be 85-95 more square feet than he had in his report, however it will still come in within budget.

They have been keeping weekly door counts on the Art Gallery at the Hermann Branch which is impressive. Over the past month, the space has average 149 visitors per week. The next exhibit, Rivers, will open on Friday, November 4 with a reception. The Art Gallery manager, Sheri Hausman has been contacted by several artists in St. Louis who are interested in exhibiting at the Gallery. Plans are in the works for a black and white photography show in the spring. An exhibit next August will be devoted entirely to artist Sun Smith-Foriet.

The Missourian contacted Director Campbell about Scenic Regional Library employees doing book reviews for the paper. Ten employees volunteered. The Missourian will do the first installment of a series in late November with more to follow.

The Scenic Regional Library maintenance van was hit while parked by a tractor-trailer. Damage was done to the rear of the vehicle. Ms. Merseal has been following up with our insurance on this. Parts are ordered and we are waiting for everything to get processed.

Director Campbell reported on Staff Development Day held at the Union Branch Library on October 10 was successful, with multiple break-out sessions and lots of food.

The proposed New Haven Branch Library Outdoor programming space is back from Horn Architects. Director Campbell states that unfortunately the plan is estimated to cost \$298,913. The Friends group clearly doesn't have the funds for such an expensive project, nor does the library. The drawing of the plan is included in the board packet. Several board members commented on the cost of building and concrete work recently having increased.

Director Campbell states that the hospital in Hermann forgot to pay their first lease payment in October, so they will pay October and November on November 1, 2022. The Hospital will also be paying the library retainage for the exterior construction on November 1. This is a little over \$10,000. The total lease over 10 years will be \$492,390. The Library Board previously voted to place all lease payments from the Hermann Area Hospital (and law office) into reserves and earmarked for future maintenance on the building, such as future HVAC replacement costs.

The library's new Digital Services Committee has recommended that the library switch from Tutor.com to Brainfuse HelpNow reporting that Brainfuse has a more user-friendly interface than Tutor.com and offers more online learning assistance options. There is a savings of \$250 per year. Director Campbell states that he has decided to accept their recommendation and that several other libraries have also made the change. Scenic Regional Library will change on November 1, 2022.

The Scenic Regional Library Foundation will host a Trivia Event on Saturday, March 4 at 6:00 p.m. at the Union City Auditorium. There will be six to eight people per table. Director Campbell be reading the questions.

Director Campbell has asked other consolidated libraries about changing the law to allow for a different fiscal year. They said that it would be nice to have the flexibility to decide their fiscal year. Director Campbell said that this is not a political issue and it is not likely to get much pushback. Board member Laura Hengstenberg questioned if it is a good idea to introduce a bill while there is so much negative attention on libraries right now with the censorship issues lurking in Jefferson City. Director Campbell said that the Missouri Library Association has a lobbyist, Randy Scheer, and he would discuss it with him.

New Business

The Annual Report is complete. Director Campbell highlighted several areas of importance within the report and gave credit to those in administration who had worked on it. Linda Andrea commented that it was very well laid out and a pleasure to review. She asked that her thanks be conveyed to whoever had done that work. Graphic designer Amanda Feldmann was credited with the lay-out and design with many others gathering facts and doing the final review. Director Campbell will be visiting the commissioners of Franklin and Warren Counties to present the Annual Report to them in the next week, while Assistant Director Megan Maurer will present it to the Gasconade County Commission.

Unfinished Business

Director Campbell said that he and Megan Mauer have reviewed the Panic Button/Security System Bids discussed at last month’s meeting and the vendor they selected is \$20,000. The board is required to approve bids exceeding \$15,000.

Laura Hengstenburg made a motion to approve the purchase of Clarity panic buttons/security system. Carla Robertscon seconded the motion. All voted Aye. The motion carried 11/0.

Director Campbell shared that this week the State Library sent out the following proposed rule from the Secretary of State’s office: “Library Certification Requirement for Protection of Minors”. It outlines six requirements for libraries to receive state aid. The proposed rule states that no funds or state aid can be used to purchase “prurient” material. Events and programs must be age appropriate. Director Campbell said that we would need to place age guidelines on program publicity.

Director Campbell said that Item F is the most important for the board. Each materials challenge will have to go to the board for action. The board will vote on it and reflect their decision in their minutes. This doesn’t go into effect until July 2023. The State Library has said that they will provide policy templates which will allow them to comply with the new rule.

John Cheatham felt that we should send a letter to the affect that that this is vague and unenforceable. Director Campbell however was concerned that could cause the state to tighten the language up considerably and preferred to not send comments at this time.

There being no further business, Board Vice President John Cheatham adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Adjourn

Secretary

Approved: _____
President, Scenic Regional Library Board of Trustees

Date: _____