

Scenic Regional Library
Board Minutes – October 17, 2023

Scenic Regional Library Board of Trustees met at the Scenic Regional Library Union Branch on October 17, 2023 at 7:00 pm. Board President John Cheatham presided at the meeting. Board members attending the meeting were John Barry, Karen Holtmeyer, Paula Sutton, Laura Hengstenberg, Susan Richardson, Sarah Rothermich, Kathi Ham, Carla Robertson and Joy Dufrain. Board members Bob Niebruegge, Linda Andrae, 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.

Several members of the PreventEd Organization were in attendance along with a citizen of St. Clair.

Public Comments

Emily Wilkerson, who is a Community Strategist for PreventEd, and a lifelong Franklin County resident, spoke briefly about PreventEd's mission. She thanked the Library for its continued effort and partnership in helping to provide resources and information.

Allana Kordonowy was raised in St. Clair and spoke about how important it is for the community to have the Narcan vending machine. Ms. Kordonowy spoke about how the Library is an open, safe space for all demographics and gave several examples of the kinds of people who may need access to the life saving drug.

Ryan Daugherty, a Certified Peer Specialist for PreventEd and former addict, thanked the Library and spoke about how he is living proof that Narcan is important, as he had to use it 4 years ago when he overdosed. He is now clean and helping others by working for PreventEd.

Terisha Friedmann is the Associate Director of Peer Specialists at PreventEd. She spoke about a St. Clair resident that called her seeking information on how to properly use the Narcan vending machine. After Ms. Friedmann instructed her on how to obtain the Narcan, the St. Clair resident told her of how thankful she is to have access to the machine since she recently lost her nephew, sister and brother to addiction. Ms. Friedmann thanked the Library and reiterated the importance of the vending machine and how many lives it is positively affecting in the community.

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

Approval of Minutes

Director Campbell stated that the Library is 25% through the fiscal year and most the three main sections of the budget were only about 20% expended. He also mentioned that there have been a lot of expenses with HVAC work between several branches that reflected in the Capital Expenses line of the budget. He also stated that the cost of the most recent purchase of RFID tags was moved from Supplies to Technical Services Supplies and that the budget now reflects this.

Financial Report

Financial Report stands approved as presented.

Director Campbell informed the Board that the Friends of the Library and Foundation account has, for the first time, reached over \$200,000. The Friends of the Library and Foundation Board appreciation banquet is in November. Director Campbell also stated that he will be asking them to fund a Summer Reading Program kickoff party at each branch next year and moving forward. This year the Friends of the Library Foundation bought instruments for several branches and now all branches have musical instruments on their children's patios.

Director Campbell also mentioned that the Owensville Trivia event has sold 9 tables so far and will go into that event with \$3,000 profit.

Director Campbell also stated that the book sale set up is November 1st and the book sale would run from November 2nd through November 4th.

Director Campbell stated that there is no update in the JEMA/BRiC lawsuit.

Director Campbell spoke about the Library's Chromebooks and hotspots. For two years the Library has offered patrons WiFi hotspots and WiFi enabled Chromebooks through a federal grant. The grant covered the full cost of the devices as well as monthly data costs. The grant ends December 31, 2024 and has not been funded again. Director Campbell stated he is debating on keeping 150 devices through the fiscal year and then downsizing for the next year.

Director Campbell informed the Board that the Strategic Plan committee decided on four areas of focus for the strategic plan: Improve Access/Reduce Barriers, Public Awareness and Marketing, Technology and Organizational Health. Director Campbell stated that he had planned to present the Board with a draft of the strategic plan this month but the process is taking longer than expected. The Strategic Plan Committee is scheduled to meet again on October 19, October 26, and November 2. He stated he will most likely have the full draft complete for the November Library Board meeting.

Director Campbell spoke briefly about branch usage statistics. He stated that computer usage is down significantly. According to the statistics pulled during "slow" hours, on average no more than 2 people are using public computers at a time on average. The Library has already begun reducing the number of public computers at each branch through attrition. Director Campbell stated the Library Board may need to think about trimming down the hours at some branches, however he does not have a proposal for this yet.

There was no unfinished business.

Reports:

Friends of the Library Foundation

Owensville Trivia Event

Book Sale

Lawsuit with JEMA/BRiC

Chromebooks and Wi-Fi Hotspots

Strategic Plan Committee

Branch Usage Statistics

Unfinished Business:

Director Campbell stated that earlier this year, some staff expressed that they did not agree with the library restricting Internet access to patrons with blocked library cards due to unreturned materials. He stated that he contacted larger St. Louis area libraries and they allow patrons with blocked cards Internet access. Furthermore, anyone can use the Wi-Fi, as it is not password protected nor is a library card required to access it. Director Campbell selected a committee to further examine and propose changes to the existing policy. While they revised and updated the entire policy, the biggest change is allowing Internet access for patrons with blocked cards. Language was also added to allow staff to help patrons enter their personal data in an online document or form and the committee also added the library's existing Denial of Service Policy to the Computer and Internet Access Policy because they were so closely connected.

New Business:
Proposed Revision
to the Computer
Use (and Denial of
Service) Policy

John Barry made a motion to accept the Proposed Revision to the Computer Use (and Denial of Service) Policy. Kathi Ham seconded the motion. All voted aye. The motion carried 10-0.

Director Campbell briefly spoke about several topics in the Annual. The Library is required by statute to submit an annual report to each County Commission by October 31. Director Campbell is scheduled to meet with Gasconade County on October 19, Warren County on October 24, Franklin County on October 26, and will be mailing the report to Crawford County.

Annual Report for
FY 2022-2023

Carla Robertson made a motion to accept the Annual Report for FY 2022-2023. Paula Sutton seconded the motion. All voted aye. The motion carried 10-0.

Director Campbell informed the Board that the third Tuesday of November fell on the week of Thanksgiving and that we would be having the November Board meeting on November 14 at the Zion United Church of Christ in Union.

November Library
Board Meeting

Director Campbell informed the Board that the Library received a book challenge regarding a book titled "Gods and Gangsters 2" by SLMN. The committee met and discussed the challenged material. The book is classified as urban fiction. This is a literary genre which is typically very dark and usually features extensive profanity, as well as explicit descriptions of sex and violence. The Library currently has around 190 titles in the collection that fall into the urban fiction genre. The committee's decision was to keep the book in the collection. The committee also decided to put genre labels on all 190 titles.

Book Challenge

There being no further business, John Cheatham moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Adjourn

Secretary

Approved: _____
President, Scenic Regional Library Board of Trustees

Date: _____

