

Scenic Regional Library  
Board Minutes – September 17, 2019

Scenic Regional Library Board of Trustees met at the Scenic Regional Library Union Branch in Union, Missouri on September 17, 2019; at 7:00 pm. Board President Kathleen Ham presided at the meeting. Board members attending the meeting were John Barry, John Cheatham, Joy Dufraim, Karen Holtmeyer, Susan Richardson, Carla Robertson, and Paula Sutton. Board members Leonard Butts, Carol Leech, Bob Niebruegge, Diann Wacker was absent. Steven Campbell, Library Director, Megan Maurer, Assistant Library Director, Kjersti Merseal, Business and Human Resource Manager, and Charlean Stockton, Administrative Assistant were also present. Guest Trudy Oberbeck was additionally in attendance.

There were no public comments.

**Public Comments**

The Board reviewed the Minutes. Susan Richardson noted an error in the August 27, 2019 minutes and asked that it be changed; Library Board member John Barry was referred to as the Board President on the last page, which is no longer the case.

**Approval of Minutes**

***Paula Sutton made the motion to approve the Minutes of the August 27, 2019 meeting as amended. Susan Richardson seconded the motion. All voted Aye. The motion carried 8/0.***

The Operations budget is currently at 19.17%. John Barry asked if the \$54,182 on the financial report was Morenet. Kjersti Merseal, Business and Human Resource Manager, confirmed that it was.

**Financial Report**

***John Barry made the motion to approve the Financial Report. Karen Holtmeyer seconded the motion. All voted Aye. The motion carried 8/0.***

The Board reviewed the Librarian's Reports.

**Librarian's Reports**

Director Steve Campbell contacted Larry Pogue, former art instructor at East Central College, and informed him that the library would accept his proposed sculpture donation. He will have the piece delivered in late October. The 7 feet tall, 2 feet wide, stainless steel sculpture entitled *Angel in the Sky I*, is intended for outside display. The value of the piece is \$7,500. The artist also requested an "unveiling" event.

**Union Branch Art Donation**

Director Steve Campbell contacted the general manager at Schicker Ford about the owner's donation inquiry. Director Campbell told him that the family would need to make a \$30,000 donation, or donate a new cargo van, to the library in order to have the Union branch children's area named after William Schicker. He said that he needed to talk with the owner. Director Campbell followed up about a week later and the manager said that the owner was out of the country and he was having difficulty contacting him. He said to move ahead with requesting bids for the cargo van, but that he would follow up with me once he was able to speak with the owner.

**Union Branch Donation Request**

Director Campbell described to the Board an issue concerning a Banned Book Week display at the Pacific branch which included a book called “Two Boys Kissing”. The book is a young adult novel with a photograph of two teenage boys kissing on the front cover. Director Campbell received three complaint calls on August 30. The one individual was verbally abusive on the phone. Director Campbell contacted the branch staff, who said that they had also received a couple complaints about the display—possibly the same people. They also said the Pacific mayor had been in to look at the display and ask some questions about it. The mayor also called Director Campbell and said that he had received a few phone calls complaining about the display, too. Director Campbell decided to have the branch pull the book from the display primarily due to the image on the cover. The Director and Library Board had previously discussed not placing books on displays with graphic imagery, such as certain romance novels or graphic novels. After the one book was removed from the display, I did not receive any other phone calls.

### **Book Display Complaints**

The Library Board supported Director Campbell’s decision to remove the book from the display.

Director Steve Campbell shared with the Board a long list of issues at the branches, such as water leaks, ongoing humidity and HVAC issues, ongoing issues with the locks, and issues with the audiovisual equipment at the New Haven Branch.

### **Overall Building Issues**

Director Steve Campbell met with Nathan Bibb, vice-president with Wright Construction, and John Mueller, with JEMA, on September 5, 2019 to discuss the ongoing issues. Director Campbell explained to them that Scenic Regional Library had been very patient regarding the issues, but had reached the point where we were prepared to pursue litigation. They agreed to work together to create an action plan to address all the remaining issues, and provide hard deadlines in the near future. Director Campbell received their plan the following week, and has received notice that two things had been fixed, but he sent two other issues.

John Barry asked if the \$257,000 was the last payment to Wright. Director Campbell and Kjersti Merseal, Business and Human Resource Manager, confirmed that they are still owed retainage fees.

Wright Construction maintains the leaks are caused by the hollow doors, and have capped above the doors and replaced the thresholds. In Warrenton, the leaks were caused by issues with the glass, but that has been fixed. While Wright Construction has done water tests at the buildings, Director Campbell stated that the true test will be when it rains.

Director Campbell provided an update on the mold issues at the library’s Hermann building. The air tests came back from ServPro on the building. Based on the results, they said that they could take a different approach to remediating the mold which would allow them to power wash the interior. ServPro revised their quote from \$140,000 down to \$78,457. Director Campbell told them that Scenic Regional couldn’t have the building remediated at this time. Once the job is bid out, the cost may come down even further.

### **Hermann Building – Mold Issues**

The Union branch self-check system was installed on September 11, 2019. It is the sixth branch with self-check. The Owensville branch's self-check system was expected to be installed in August; however, the system was delivered with damage. The library has been awaiting a replacement part. Once Owensville's system is live, Scenic Regional will have self-check at every branch except Hermann and New Haven, and plan to add a self-check system at the new Hermann branch. While there has not been a decision about New Haven yet, the branch does have the infrastructure in place for a future system.

**Self-Check Systems  
– Owensville and  
Union Branches**

The Wright City Branch Friends of the Library group attempted to form on September 9, 2019. The group only has 14 paid members, which is not surprising considering that Scenic Regional has only had a branch in the community for 15 months. Director Steve Campbell attended the meeting, which was held at the branch. There were four members in attendance; three were residents of Innsbrook. Director Campbell discussed the Foundation and the Friends groups bylaws and operations.

**Wright City Branch  
Friends of the  
Library**

The members in attendance decided that instead of electing officers at that meeting, they would each attempt to bring someone they knew who was also interested in helping with the Friends group with them to the next meeting and then elect officers from the larger group. The next meeting will be held at the branch on November 5, 2019. Wright City is the only branch without a Friends group.

Director Steve Campbell gave two Friends of the Lincoln County Library officers, Caroline Yocco and Joan Greco, a tour of the Union branch on August 30, 2019. They also met and discussed the Lincoln County Library. During the tour, photos were taken of them at the Union branch and sent them along with a press release to the *Troy Journal* in Lincoln County.

**Lincoln County  
Library Meeting**

During the meeting, it was decided that they would schedule a community forum in Troy in November to discuss Lincoln County joining Scenic Regional Library. Director will be invited to speak at the forum, which will be publicized in the newspaper. In the meanwhile, they would recruit other people to attend the forum who were supportive of joining the regional library

Director Steve Campbell and Diann Wacker met to close an old Gasconade County bank account which contained \$672.40.

**Miscellaneous Old  
Business**

Scenic Regional Library received probate paperwork pertaining the will of Anita Jaeger, who recently passed away. Director Steve Campbell spoke with Dave Politte about the distribution of the funds. The money will probably be distributed in November. John Barry asked if the money would be used for books, but Director Campbell said the plan was to purchase musical instruments for the outdoor children's area, and feels that once they are in use, other branches will want them.

Director Campbell told the Board nothing was changed in the proposed budget since the review at last month's meeting. The budget is estimated at \$5.7 million.

**Proposed FY 2019-  
2020 Annual Budget**

On the subject of replacing the van for the Facilities Manager, John Barry asked if the other vehicles will need to be replaced in the near future. Director Campbell said he did not think that would be the case, as the Sienna and Camry could potentially service the library for at least another five or more years.

Susan Richardson mentioned that the Big Read has created quite a positive stir; she shared that lot of books clubs are planning to participate. She has also heard people discussing it while in line at a local store.

***Carla Robertson made the motion to approve the Proposed 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Annual Budget. Susan Richardson seconded the motion. All voted Aye. The motion carried 8/0.***

Director Steve Campbell explained that he wanted to begin a conversation with the Board about their opinions on the future of the bookmobile. He has met with Connie Vest, Bookmobile Librarian, and she has recommended ending bookmobile service once she retires.

### **Bookmobile**

When the bookmobile first began service, the community stops were heavily used, but that is no longer the case. Since the tax increase, Scenic Regional Library has hired additional staff who now provide outreach which used to be provided exclusively by the bookmobile. He believes that the branch's outreach services are being duplicated by the bookmobile. Director Campbell also commented that the school libraries are much improved from when the bookmobile service began.

Karen Holtmeyer asked if the bookmobile visited all the private schools, and went on to state that her local school gets most of their books from the bookmobile. Joy Dufraim asked what the circulation of the bookmobile was. Director Campbell responded that the circulation for the last fiscal year was at least 36,000 items.

John Barry asked why the bookmobile librarian felt the service should be discontinued. Director Campbell replied that she feels society has changed to the point where the library no longer needs to offer the service.

Director Steve Campbell shared with the Board that some libraries offer "teacher's assistance" programs, where the teacher can request materials on a certain subject and the library would fill their requests. Director Campbell added that these library materials could be delivered in a van to the schools for teachers.

Assistant Director Megan Maurer stated that last year the bookmobile stops were audited to find out which stops were being used and which weren't; stops which were not utilized were discontinued, which allowed for other locations to receive two stops per month.

Susan Richardson asked when the bookmobile librarian planned to retire and how much longer the bookmobile would be running. Director Campbell said he was unsure of the retirement date. He added that Scenic Regional has put quite a bit of money into the bookmobile for maintenance—about \$7,000 a year. He said that if bookmobile services were discontinued, the funds (at least \$100,000

a year) could be spent on more staff at the branches; the additional staff could provide more outreach in our communities.

John Barry said this debate has been going on for probably 20 years. Director Campbell says the subject is always something that comes up every time the bookmobile is down due to repairs. Mr. Barry agreed that the library could offer more outreach.

Carla Robertson reminded the Board that if the bookmobile is circulating more than other branches, it should be taken under consideration. She added that Warrenton schools had already cut back to four days a week due to funding, and if funding were to be decreased further, the school library could be among those cuts.

Director Steve Campbell pointed out it is not economically feasible for Scenic Regional to put branches everywhere, but agreed that the bookmobile's circulation is definitely something that should be considered. John Cheatham said he would be interested to see the large county maps marked with all the current stops. He also suggested that having the bookmobile on the road is good advertisement, and by having the bookmobile seen on the road, it makes patrons feel like they are being served. He continued that the bookmobile visiting the school is a big deal, it gives the children the exposure to the library that they may not otherwise have. Kathi Ham mentioned that she used the bookmobile as a teacher at Berger, where they did not have access to books otherwise.

Susan Richardson agreed to the advertisement benefit and Carla Robertson stressed that the circulation numbers should not to be ignored. She didn't feel that the Board would act solely on nostalgia, but on the numbers. Director Campbell promised he would do more research and bring the information to the Board in the coming months.

Board member Carla Robertson shared that former Scenic Regional Library Board member Christine Schmidt passed away and she feels that the Library should place a book on the donor wall in her honor. Director Steve Campbell said the Library could order one at cost and place it on the wall. John Cheatham asked if the donor wall "book" fundraising had been successful; Director Campbell answered that it has been, with over 350 "books" sold systemwide.

#### Miscellaneous

Director Steve Campbell reiterated for Board members who may have missed the discussion, that the grand opening was a huge success. The Union branch registered over 800 on their door counter. Scenic Regional gave away 460 hotdogs, and the bounce house and balloon animal vendors had to be asked to stay an extra half hour to accommodate the long lines.

Director Campbell asked a member of the public, Trudy Oberbeck, if she had anything she wanted to say because she had arrived after the public comments portion of the meeting. She said that she wanted to attend the meeting to know what was going on at the Library because the Board's minutes weren't current on the Library's website. Director Campbell said that he would get the minutes updated on the website (they had not been updated online since summer of 2017), although it wasn't a legal requirement to post them online. He added that the minutes were always available by request, if someone wanted them.

*There being no further business, Board President Kathleen Ham adjourned the meeting at 8:04 pm.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

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

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