

Scenic Regional Library  
Board Minutes – September 20, 2022

Scenic Regional Library Board of Trustees met at the Scenic Regional Library Union Branch on September 20, 2022 at 7:00 pm. Board President Robert Niebruegge presided at the meeting. Board members attending the meeting were Joy Dufraim, John Barry, Carla Robertson, Paula Sutton, Kathleen Ham, Susan Richardson, Laura Hengstenberg and Robert Niebruegge. Board member Linda Andrae joined the meeting virtually via Zoom.

Library Director Steven Campbell, Assistant Library Director Megan Maurer, Business and Human Resources Manager Kjersti Merseal, Administrative Assistant Brenda Humphrey, and Associate Director of Youth and Outreach Services, Christy Schink were also present.

There were no public comments.

No changes were made to the August 23, 2022 minutes. Minutes stand as presented.

**Public Comments**

Karen Holtmeyer pointed out that the executive minutes of August showed that she called the meeting to order, while Robert Niebruegge is board president and presided over the meeting. The executive minutes from August 23, 2022 shall be corrected to reflect that change. Executive minutes stand approved as corrected.

**Approval of Minutes**

Director Campbell stated that once the new budget is approved the Budget Comparison Report will be accurate. Next month we will be a full quarter of the way through the budget.

**Financial Report**

Circulation is rebounding some; overall, circulation is up 7.1 percent. Board President Robert Niebruegge asked if there were further questions for Director Campbell. Hearing none, the Financial Report stands approved as presented.

The library is trying to pursue prosecution of some individuals with bills for lost items. More than \$500 of unreturned items is considered a felony offense in Missouri. The library has 8 people with bills of more than \$1,000. Board member Susan Richardson asked what is the limit of items or dollars of materials to check out of our libraries before it's considered too much. Director Campbell replied that Scenic Regional Library has a limit of 100 items as a limit to allow families with multiple children to access the materials. Where the dollar amount adds up is when items such as audiobooks are checked out, some of which cost as much as \$100 each. Missouri has a law that doesn't allow collection agencies to credit report individuals for books any longer. Director Campbell is going to see how the issue resolves with the one person that Diane Disbro has contacted, and then decide at that point on the remaining individuals. Director Campbell asked the Board if they wanted to change the 100-item limit; there didn't appear to be interest.

**Reports**

Director Campbell closed on the Wright City property last week.

Director Campbell mentioned the door count for the Hermann Gallery reached 176 the previous week despite advertising for the Gallery not in place; paid advertisements in the Hermann Chamber of Commerce and Hermann Advertiser-Courier's tourism fliers have not been published yet, and the two signs on the trolleys have not been installed. Gallery manager Sherry Hausmann has told Director Campbell that there is a lot of interest for the next show.

There is a new law placing restrictions on school libraries. The law also makes it illegal for librarians and educators to provide "sexually explicit material" to minors; however, may apply to LGBT materials. It's uncertain if the law will affect public libraries yet.

Director Campbell mentioned that with the passing of Michele Fehlings that a Board position for Gasconade County will need to be filled. Board member Kathi Ham suggested Sarah Rothermich of Hermann. Director Campbell has submitted a letter recommending her appointment to the County Commission and has a meeting with Ms. Rothermich at the Hermann library branch on October 3 to discuss the library budget, policies, and other matters.

Utility bill issues at the Wright City Branch were determined to be from the air conditioning and heating system ; the bill was five times the normal amount. We have a similar situation at the Pacific branch that is being investigated.

Staff Day will be held on Columbus Day, October 10, 2022 at the Union Library Branch. This is our seventh or eighth annual event. A variety of sessions are offered to staff, as well as lunch. Washington Public Library will be sending two staff members, too.

A new panic button system is still being looked into by Director Campbell and Assistant Director Megan Maurer. They plan to decide by the end of this week or early next week.

## **New Business**

The library's Hoopla usage continues to grow rapidly. Director Campbell asked if the Board is interested in blocking reciprocal borrowers from using Hoopla to possibly reduce usage. Other libraries in the state have not allowed reciprocal borrowers from using their digital resources. Board member Kathi Ham asked who would be affected. Director Campbell said that Scenic Regional Library has about 1,000 reciprocal library card users, excluding Washington Library residents; the library is contractually required to allow Washington Library patrons to use the library's digital resources. One-third of the library's reciprocal borrowers are from Crawford County and use the Sullivan branch. Director Campbell said that each patron is limited to seven Hoopla checkouts per month. Director Campbell said he is fine not putting limits on Hoopla at this time, however, he wanted the Board to consider the matter. Board member John Barry thinks that the library should monitor the issue, but not decide now. Director Campbell referred the Board to the usage report showing the Hoopla, Overdrive and Cloud Library usage. He discussed cost compared to usage. The library spends \$120,000 annually for Overdrive and Cloud Library, versus \$78,000 annually on Hoopla. Board President Robert Niebrugge said that it's generally not received well when something is given to the public, and then taken away. Board President Robert Niebrugge asked the other Board

## **Reciprocal Borrowers**

members if they wanted to table the issue. The other Board members agreed that they did not want to act on the matter at this time.

Gasconade County Historical Society would like to have the microfilm from the Hermann branch. Currently, patrons wanting to view the microfilm have to take it over to the Historical Society and use their reader-printers. The Library Board had previously agreed not to purchase a microfilm reader-printer for the branch due to the low demand. Director Campbell suggested lending the microfilm to the Historical Society on a year-to-year basis.

**Gasconade County  
Historical Society**

**Paula Sutton made the motion to lend the Hermann branch’s microfilm and storage cabinet to the Gasconade County Historical Society, and for Director Campbell to have the library’s attorney draw up an agreement. John Barry seconded the motion. The motion carried 10/0.**

The Library Board of Trustees Treasurer position is open due to the passing of Michelle Fehlings. The Treasurer needs to be from Gasconade County based on the officer rotation in the Board’s bylaws. Board member Laura Hengstenberg declined; Kathi Ham accepted the nomination.

**Library Board of  
Trustees Treasurer**

**Karen Holtmeyer made the motion to elect Kathleen Ham as Treasurer of the Board of Trustees. Susan Richardson seconded the motion. The motion carried 10/0.**

**Unfinished Business**

Board member John Barry asked Director Campbell if he was going to present the budget to the County Commissioners. Director Campbell stated no, that he emails the Commissions the budget. However, he will be presenting the Annual Report to the Commissions in October.

**FY 2022-2023  
Annual Budget**

**John Barry made the motion to approve the FY 2022-2023 Annual Budget. Kathi Ham seconded the motion.**

Board President Robert Niebruegge asked if there was any other business.

*Board member Paula Sutton moves to go into closed session. John Barry seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote to move into Executive Session: Robert Niebruegge – Aye, Carla Robertson – Aye, Joy Dufrain – Aye, John Barry – Aye, Laura Hengstenberg – Aye, Susan Richardson – Aye, Kathleen Ham – Aye, Paula Sutton – Aye, Karen Holtmeyer, Aye, and Linda Andrea, Aye.*

**Closed Session**

The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m.

*There was a roll call vote to move out of Executive Session: Karen Holtmeyer—Aye, Paula Sutton—Aye, Kathleen Ham—Aye, Robert Niebruegge—Aye, John Barry—Aye, Susan Richardson—Aye, Joy Dufrain—Aye, Carla Robertson—Aye, Laura Hengstenberg—Aye, Linda Andrae—Aye.*

The Library Board returned from Executive Session at 9:28 pm.

*There being no further business, Board President Robert Niebruegge **Adjourn** adjourned the meeting 9:28 pm.*

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Secretary

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

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