

Scenic Regional Library
Board Minutes – May 19, 2026

Scenic Regional Library Board of Trustees met via Zoom on May 19, 2026 at 7:00 pm. Board President Kathi Ham presided at the meeting. Board members attending the meeting were John Barry, Susan Richardson, Karen Holtmeyer, Carla Robertson, Kathi Ham, Laura Hengstenberg, Bob Niebruegge, John Cheatham, Mandy Keogh and Joy Dufrain. Board members Sarah Rothermich and Monica Hiatt entered the meeting at approximately 7:05 pm. Board member Renee Laune was absent.

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

There were no public comments.

Public Comments

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

Approval of Minutes

Director Campbell stated that we are about 83.3% through the year. He stated that the budget is at about 79% and he anticipates that we will finish the year with a slightly smaller surplus than the last few years.

Financial Report

John Barry made a motion to approve the financial report. Susan Richardson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried 12-0.

Reports:

Director Campbell informed the Board that the Hermann drainage project was moving slower than originally anticipated. He showed the Board an email from Steve Vollmer who is the owner of the property the Library was going to use as the water run off area. Mr. Vollmer has temporarily revoked his easement. Director Campbell stated that Mr. Vollmer is not willing to sign off on liability for a retention pond on his property unless the City of Hermann approves a revised building plan for some housing units. The plan's changes are necessary due to the presence of the new retention pond. Director Campbell said we are still working with Mr. Vollmer to come to an agreement and is waiting to hear back from him. He also informed the Board that we received around 2 inches of rain yesterday and the drains remained clear and there were no signs of flooding.

Hermann Drainage Project Update

Better World Books had informed Director Campbell that they would not pick up the leftover book sale books in the rain. However, they updated him later with a change of plans. The volunteers repacked the books in small boxes and Better World Books came on Monday and picked them up from every branch except for Warrenton, Wright City, and Sullivan. East Central Recycling agreed

Book Sale Cleanup Issues

to pick up the books at the Warrenton and Wright City branches and the Sullivan branch donated their books to United Methodist Church in Sullivan.

Director Campbell informed the Board of some potential changes with OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) and Missouri Evergreen Consortium (MEC). Many smaller libraries cannot afford OCLC subscriptions and rely on copy cataloging, which is obtaining records from larger libraries. Director Campbell stated that he spoke with Technical Services Manager Ruth Lord and that the consensus was that if OCLC goes away, that we would still be able to access the records using copy cataloging from large, urban libraries; it just may take a little more work.

OCLC and Missouri Evergreen

Director Campbell briefly mentioned to the Board that he had been working with Technical Services Manager Ruth Lord on using ChatGPT to create MARC records for cataloging new items. While it was able to, it was not 100% accurate. Director Campbell stated that he is optimistic that in the future it would be useful, but for now the Library would not be able to use AI to create MARC records.

Possible Use of AI for Obtaining MARC Records

Director Campbell stated that there was a Request for Reconsideration received for a book: “The Truth About Socialism for Smart Kids,” by Ralph Payne, on May 1. The Committee met on May 5 and ultimately decided 3-2 to keep the book in the collection but to move it to the young adult non-fiction section. A letter was sent to the patron the same day.

Request for Reconsideration

There was no new business.

New Business:

There was no unfinished business.

Unfinished Business:

There being no further business, Kathi Ham adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

Adjourn

Secretary

Approved: _____
President, Scenic Regional Library Board of Trustees

Date: _____