

MISSOURI RIVER REGIONAL LIBRARY

Board Meeting

213 Adams Street, Grimshaw Room

December 19, 2023

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The regular Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by President Stacy Fick. It was announced that Kaye Bertels resigned her position from the Osage County and MRRL Boards, effective December 11, 2023. Stacy Fick also announced her resignation from the MRRL and Jefferson City-Cole County Boards, effective December 31, 2023.

1. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Members present: President Stacy Fick, Treasurer John Gulick, Secretary Anne Rottmann and members: Jeff Briggs, Ithaca Bryant, Jessica Davis, Kay Kasiske, Rodney Mulvania, Steve Nelson, Bob Priddy and Anita Randolph

Member(s) absent: Becky Layton and Anne Steele

Also present: Claudia Young, Library Director; Angie Bayne, Assistant Director of Public Services; Diane Clingman, Human Resources Manager; Debra Winter, Business Manager/Accountant; and Robin Coffman, Administrative Assistant

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jeff Briggs made a motion, seconded by John Gulick, to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL OF MONTHLY EXPENDITURES

John Gulick and Debra Winter, Accountant, reviewed the monthly financial report (Attachments A & B) with the Board. Debra reported that although there are some line items that exceeded the budgeted amount, expenditures are well within the overall budget and adjustments will be made. John Gulick made a motion, seconded by Steve Nelson, to approve the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Expenditures. Motion carried.

5. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Claudia Young reported to the Board that she and HR are working diligently to fill staff vacancies due to departures. Lisa Sanning has been named the new Adult Services Manager. Claudia also reported she has interviewed applicants for the Marketing Manager position, and one applicant is being invited back for a second interview.

Claudia indicated that there has been tremendous response to the Annual Appeal and Giving Tuesday. The Soener Foundation out of Omaha, Nebraska, learned of the levy defeat and donated \$4,000. Two Ameren employees nominated MRRL for the Ameren Cares LoveYour Library program, which resulted in another \$4,000 being donated.

Approximately, \$60,000 has been raised. Claudia also noted that there have been 37 new donors this year.

Claudia and Angie Bayne, Assistant Director of Public Services, attended the *Library Journal* Director's Summit in Houston. The programs were interesting and beneficial. It was also a good opportunity to network with other librarians of various sizes throughout the nation and to discover libraries across the nation are facing similar issues. (See Director's Report for more information on specific sessions.)

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Capital Facilities Committee** (Anita Randolph) No Report
- B. Executive Committee** (Stacy Fick) No Report
- C. Finance Committee** (John Gulick) No Report
- D. Foundation Liaison** No Report
- E. Marketing/Communications Committee** (Jeff Briggs) No Report
- F. Planning Committee** (Ithaca Bryant) No Report
- G. Bylaws Committee** (Stacy Fick) No Report

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Planning for the Future

Bob Priddy inquired as to whether the MRRL Board should approach Jefferson City's City Council (City Council) in January at its meeting to better understand select member's opposition to the proposed tax levy increase in order to assist the Board in determining its next steps related to facility expansion. The Cole County Commission (County Commission) may be approached at a later date.

Discussion ensued regarding comments to be presented during the public comment portion of the City Council meeting in response to the misinformation that was communicated throughout the community related to the library's proposed tax levy increase that was placed on the August 2023 ballot, but, subsequently, failed. A critical question is why the City Council has not appointed a liaison to attend the MRRL Board meetings as it has for other boards and commissions? This would be one manner of keeping the City Council informed. Also, to help the public stay informed, MRRL Board agendas and meeting minutes, once approved, are placed on the MRRL website for public access. The MRRL Board conducts its business in open meetings, always scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. It should be noted that all Board discussions regarding the proposed tax levy were conducted during its monthly meetings, which have always been open to the public, and notices of these meetings were appropriately posted. It was also reiterated that the library administration presented to more than 40 local organizations/groups during the months leading up to the election, as well as several sessions, open to the public, held at the library. As of yet, those who opposed the proposed tax levy increase and serve on the City Council have not communicated directly with the MRRL Board reasons behind their opposition. In an effort to garner feedback from the public, the library administration and Board hosted three (3) Post-Election Proposition Library sessions during October (one in the morning, one in the

afternoon, and one in the evening). Email and letters to the library have been other means used to submit feedback.

Jeff Briggs made a motion, seconded by Anne Rottmann, to delay approaching the City Council and the County Commission in order to provide MRRL Board members time to communicate with City Council members and County Commissioners, individually, to discuss concerns each had with the election and to bring back these concerns to the entire MRRL Board for discussion at its next meeting. President Fick asked that a roll call vote be taken:

Ithaca Bryant - Abstain
Jeff Briggs - Yes
Jessica Davis - No
John Gulick - No
Kay Kasiske - No
Rodney Mulvania - Yes
Steve Nelson - No
Bob Priddy - Abstain
Anita Randolph - No
Anne Rottmann - Abstain
Stacy Fick - No

Motion failed - two (2) members voted in favor of the motion; six (6) members voted in opposition; and three (3) members abstained.

Stacy Fick made a motion, seconded by John Gulick, for Bob Priddy to present comments and questions on behalf of the MRRL Board to the City Council at its January 2, 2024 meeting. President Fick asked that a roll call vote be taken.

Ithaca Bryant - Yes
Jeff Briggs - No
Jessica Davis - Yes
John Gulick - Yes
Kay Kasiske - Yes
Rodney Mulvania - No
Steve Nelson - Yes
Bob Priddy - Abstain
Anita Randolph - Yes
Anne Rottmann - Yes
Stacy Fick - Yes

Motion carried - eight (8) members voted in favor of the motion; two (2) members voted in opposition; and one member abstained.

B. Election of 2024 Officers

John Gulick made the motion, seconded by Jessica Davis, to accept the proposed slate of officers for the Missouri River Regional Library Board of Trustees for the 2024 calendar year:

President - Bob Priddy
Vice President - Steve Nelson

Secretary - Jessica Davis

Treasurer - Kay Kasiske

No additional nominations from the floor were made. Motion carried.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Director's Evaluation

The Board was reminded that HR will send the director's evaluation questionnaire out to library staff immediately. HR then compiles staff responses and sends these results along with the questionnaire to Board members to also collect their input into the director's evaluation. The entire process will be completed so the Executive Committee has needed information prior to its meeting on January 16.

B. Comprehensive/Strategic Plan

The strategic plan provided to the Board was developed in 2017; however, the director's annual operational plans were not included. The Board indicated that the first step is for the Planning Committee to meet and develop a document to assist the Board in understanding what outcomes have been accomplished or completed, and the which and how identified action steps supported the strategies for meeting the goals.

After the Planning Committee has met, the next step is for the Board to participate in a work session with a facilitator to develop its new 3-5 year plan which will provide guidance and focus on identified goals. Department managers may also be included in the process as the strategic plan should be known to all staff and should be used in making decisions.

A Planning Committee meeting will be scheduled in the near future. The most current strategic plan and annual operational plan will be sent out to the Board prior to the next meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Meeting minutes approved January 16, 2024.