

MISSOURI RIVER REGIONAL LIBRARY

Board Meeting

213 Adams Street, Grimshaw Room

May 16, 2023

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The regular Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Stacy Fick.

1. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Members present: President Stacy Fick, Vice President Kaye Bertels (via conference call), Treasurer John Gulick, Secretary Anne Rottmann, and members: Jeff Briggs, Ithaca Bryant, Kay Kasiske, Steve Nelson, and Bob Priddy

Members absent: Rheannon Jahnsen, Anita Randolph and Anne Steele

Also present: Claudia Young, Library Director; Natalie Newville, Assistant Director of Marketing and Development; Angie Bayne, Assistant Director of Public Services; Debra Winter, Business Manager/Accountant; and Robin Coffman, Administrative Assistant

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bob Priddy made a motion, seconded by Anne Rottmann, to approve the minutes from the April 18, 2023, meeting. Motion carried.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL OF MONTHLY EXPENDITURES (ATTACHMENTS A & B)

John Gulick and Debra Winter, Accountant, reviewed the monthly financial report (Attachments A & B) with the Board. John Gulick made a motion, seconded by Jeff Briggs, to approve the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Expenditures. Motion carried.

5. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT - CLAUDIA YOUNG (ATTACHMENT C)

Claudia Young, Library Director, reiterated that our main focus is on the levy campaign; however, she reported that April was a busy month! Donuts with the Director brought in about 40 individuals, and there were approximately 200 people who attended the library's Patron Appreciation Day in the Park. MRRL recognized former Mayor Carrie Tergin as the library's 2023 Ambassador of the Year. A reporter and photographer with the Christian Science Monitor spent a day at the library and this article will be the cover story in its May publication. Claudia indicated there has been a steady stream of positive publicity via television news stories and newspaper articles, as well as through social media, related to National Library Week and the library's announcement of its levy campaign. Claudia also pointed out that funding for public libraries was restored in the state budget.

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 (Kaye Bertels) No Report

E. Marketing/Communications Committee (Jeff Briggs)

The committee has not met; however, Natalie Newville reported that the library has hired, on a temporary basis, a social media consultant to assist with promoting MRRL programs and events until after the levy campaign is complete. Natalie also indicated that MRRL staff are encouraging library card holders to register to vote, if not yet registered.

F. Planning Committee (Ithaca Bryant) No Report

G. Bylaws Committee (Stacy Fick) No Report

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Levy Campaign Update

Claudia reported that the paperwork has been submitted to place the levy increase on the August 8, 2023, ballot. She and Natalie met with Civic Progress to solicit funds to help with costs of promoting the levy campaign. Members of Civic Progress requested additional information prior to rendering a decision. A copy of the questions and answers are included in the Board's packet. Claudia and Natalie are scheduled to meet with Civic Progress again on Friday, May 18.

Claudia indicated that she will send to Board members the list of the organizations and businesses which have been scheduled for a presentation regarding the library's value and the need for its expansion.

Claudia informed the Board issues/questions related to library expansion have arisen; to date, these include: why the need for expansion, why the selection of the August election date, how will library patron parking be impacted, why the choice of Certificates of Participation, and what impact will unhoused patrons have on the expansion. Natalie is compiling the questions and issues and will update a FAQ every Friday on the library's Facebook page. Claudia and Natalie are scheduled to meet with Mayor Ron Fitzwater in the near future to discuss library parking.

Discussion ensued related to unhoused patrons and their impact on the library and its levy campaign. It was reiterated that the unhoused in Jefferson City are not just a library issue, but a community issue, and the community must step up and be part of the solution. Library staff, for their part, are striving to consistently enforce library policies and procedures regarding behavior and facility usage so that everyone feels welcomed in the library and that no patron is discriminated against.

8. NEW BUSINESS

None

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Meeting minutes approved June 20, 2023.