

CAPE GIRARDEAU PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Thursday, February 22, 2024 @ 7am
Cape Girardeau Public Library

CALL TO ORDER

Red called the meeting to order at 7:05am.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Adam Criblez, Jessica Hill, Rekha Patterson, Dave Diveley, Stacy Lane, Red Redinger, Lauren Clark-Hill, Ed Thompson, Kathy Wolz
Also present: Director Katie Earnhart, Linda Bailiff and Jeff Stroder representing Beussink, Hey, Roe & Stroder Certified Public Accounts

MINUTES

Minutes from the Jan 25 Board Meeting (with one correction), Jan 26 Strategic Planning Committee, Feb 1 Policy and Bylaws Committee, Feb 8 Special Board Meeting and Feb 15 Strategic Planning Committee were reviewed. **Stacy made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Lauren. Motion passed.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Citizens attended the meeting, and the following five people made comments: Bambi Robinson, Laura Bain-Selbo, Mary Maginel, Dr Floyd Lockhart III, and Lisa Lambert.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Red reminded the board that Katie's annual evaluation is soon. Red congratulated Katie on her performance and thanked the staff for their service.

Jeff Stroder reported the 2023 audit has no deficiencies, is compliant and there were no adjustments needed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Library Services:

1. Missouri Evergreen Update:

1. We are now 7 months into Missouri Evergreen and 6 months in for resource sharing. We have seen an increase in our physical circulation of around 1,000 items per month. That is about a 9-10% increase from last year.
2. Cardholder signups have also increased. There were 999 patrons signed up July '23-Jan '24. This was 122, or 13.91% more signups from July '23-Jan '24 than the same time the previous year. 319 of those signups were reciprocal borrowers.
3. Active cardholders have increased by ~4% in the last six months. There are 5,781 active cardholders as of February 10th, 2024, compared to 5,489 as of August 5, 2023. This is the number of cardholders that have some type of activity/usage in the previous 12 months. So, not only are we seeing more people sign up for library cards, but they are staying active for longer.
4. Resource sharing volume continues to increase each month. The number of items coming and going to the

library since July 2023 was 10,448. That is up from 1,443 for the same time in the previous year.

2. Library Advocacy:

1. The 2024 MLA Library Advocacy Day was held on February 6th in Jefferson City. Katie met with Rep Voss and Sen Rehder to discuss budgetary and legislative issues important to Missouri Libraries.
2. We asked that they support the proposed budget submitted by the Secretary of State for State Aid to libraries, A&E funding, and the REAL program. The Governor’s budget matched these funding requests from the State Library.
3. We also discussed concern for a few bills that would eliminate property taxes, which make up over 95% of our operating revenue. Most of these bills don’t go anywhere but are still concerning. Finally, HB2498, would require that public libraries hold elections to elect board members. The bill has many issues, including contradicting current library laws, but would see the entire library board turnover every two years and cost the library district \$10,000-20,000 every two years to elect board members, while the current method of appointment does not cost the library district anything.
4. The Chamber of Commerce sent an email to members explaining that Ameren is giving away free LED bulbs. Katie filled out the form and more than 800 bulbs were delivered earlier this week.

3. Friends Update:

1. The next Friends Book Sale will be February 29th through March 3rd.
2. The Friends voted to use the \$2,000 Ameren Grant on Solar Eclipse glasses for the library to give to patrons. More details about how the library will distribute glasses will be forthcoming.

The eclipse will be on April 8th, 2024. After discussion, **Ed made a motion to close the library, seconded by Lauren. Motion passed.**

**BUILDING &
GROUNDS
COMMITTEE**

None.

**BYLAWS &
POLICY
COMMITTEE**

None.

BUDGET

None

PERSONNEL

**PUBLIC
RELATIONS**

A Listening Session took place on Feb 15th comprised of board members and members of the community.

**STRATEGIC
PLANNING
COMMITTEE**

The Strategic Planning Committee will work with the Public Relations Committee to target specific goals.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS**

None

**FRIENDS
FOUNDATION**

The Friends book sale will take place Feb 29 – Mar 3. Many thanks to Rheka for the strong backs to move books. The volunteer sign-up sheet is available with a few shifts to fill. The Friends next meeting will be May 21st at 4pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Jessica made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lauren. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 am.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 28, 2024th @ 7am
Cape Public Library

Recorder: Linda Bailiff