

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**WASHINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**August 26, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by President Carolyn Witt, who led the Pledge. Members present included: Carolyn Witt, Leanne Gisburne, Doug Holdmeyer, Jamie Holtmeier, Molly Maniaci, Joette Reidy, and Barbara Volmert. Councilmember Chad Briggs was present as well as Bill Miller Jr. of the Missourian.

Jaime moved that the agenda be approved. Motion seconded by Doug and the motion carried. Leanne moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Joette. Motion carried.

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT:** Twelve Playaway Launchpad tablets for children were funded, purchased, and placed on the new Spotlight Shelf. The friends are accepting donations for the book sale on the third weekend in September. A volunteer list will go out in the new email newsletter.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**Statistics and Collections:** The July statistics resemble last year statistics with about 30% Washington patrons and 70% Scenic Patrons. Passports were processed at a rate of 64 this month with an additional 25 photos taken. The door count for July 2024 was increased from July 2023 in part due to the success of the popular dinosaur event. The children's Wonderbooks and Launchpads are so popular that the new Spotlight shelf is mostly empty. Nelson is exploring other items for the shelf as well as ideas for expanding the collection.

**Patron Behavior:** No major incidents have occurred this past month. The library continues to be a cooling center during extreme heat; however, this past month usage was minimal.

**Facilities** Nelson reported on a couple of HVAC installation issues that were discovered. Some piping needs to be redone to hook into the fresh air unit and a control panel is needed for the fresh air unit. A budget request for new drinking fountains and a replacement meeting room moveable wall were submitted. A potentially poisonous plant in the library's garden area was removed by the park's department after receiving a Facebook inquiry on the subject.

**Staffing:** The summer shelver employee has been promoted to a permanent, part-time position. Nelson reported that the city is now in the final stage of working through the employee compensation study with their follow-up compensation plan.

**Programs:** The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary final celebration event will be held in November. This family-friendly event will be a yuletide party at the City Auditorium where costumes are encouraged.

The Missouri Book Festival begins Friday, September 13 with a keynote address from author Ridley Pearson at the Washington High School theatre. On Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. the free festival continues. A schedule of events has been released and billboard advertisements are up in St. Louis. The festival also includes 10 programs for area public and parochial schools in the three days leading up to the festival. Requests for volunteers will be included in the library's email newsletter.

Nelson will send 2 to 3 staff to the MLA conference in the last week of September.

The Smithsonian's traveling exhibit "Voices and Votes – Democracy in America," funded by the Missouri Humanities, will arrive at the Washington Public Library in December 2025 and run through January 2026. Ruth and Nelson attended a Missouri Humanities training for the exhibit. Nelson recalled the popular previous Smithsonian Exhibit "Mail Call," and expressed his excitement for this new exhibit. The staff will work on a program plan to be ready by December 2024, when Missouri Humanities will start advertising the program.

### **Programs Recap**

- Show Me Dinosaurs, July 25<sup>th</sup> - 500 + people attended.
- Monster of the Week, July 23
- Candidate Forum, Tuesday July 23 – The meeting room was packed.
- Hope for Covid Long Haulers, Tues July 30
- Summer Reading Program officially ended on July 28
- Washington Town and Country Parade, Sunday, Aug 4<sup>th</sup> – The library was the honor group.
- Great Decisions, August 7 and continuing for 8 weeks.

### **Programs Upcoming**

- "Where the Lights are Shining" – A Friends Program featuring two historical fiction books, and two authors set during the 1904 World's Fair.
- Dolly Day, Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup> – Children activities and a Dolly Parton cover performance at 6pm.
- The Wild Mississippi, September 12, 6:30 pm.
- Ridley Pearson, Keynote Speaker for the Missouri Book Festival, September 13, 7pm at Washington High School
- Missouri Book Festival 2024, Saturday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to 5pm.
- An Introduction to Ball-Jointed Dolls, Tues, Sept. 17 at 6:30 pm
- Friends of the Library Book Sale, September 20 - 22

Joette moved that the director's report be accepted, seconded by Sue. The motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** There was no unfinished business

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was no new business

There being no further business, Sue moved that the meeting be adjourned. Joette seconded the motion, which carried.

**NEXT MEETING:** September 23, 2024