

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WASHINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
September 23, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Carolyn Witt, who led the Pledge. Members present included: Carolyn Witt, Doug Holdmeyer, Jamie Holtmeier, Joette Reidy, Sue Wehmueller, and Barbara Volmert. Councilmember Chad Briggs was present as well as Michael Maresh of the Missourian.

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

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT: The Friends of the Library Book Sale raised almost \$4,400 in sales. They had a “soft” sale for the week leading into the sale, with extra books in the hallway, then the official sale that included the meeting room.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Statistics and Collections: August statistics are attached to last month’s meeting minutes. Circulations were down slightly; however, the door count was up. Passport processing was consistent with 42 this month. Nelson reported that the new Spotlight shelf is being used for Wonderbooks (an audio book and book together) and Launchpads. Twenty WhaZoodle! devices will be added in 2025. The library received a Technology Innovation Grant for \$4,080 through the Missouri Library Association. The Grant will cover the WhaZoodle!s as well as more Launchpads.

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: HVAC Update – the staff continues to work with the Parks Department and the vendor on the humidity in the building. It is still high.

Technology: Nelson will apply for a technology grant of \$20,000 for upgraded hard drives. The number will be a few less than the library has at present, however Nelson noted that the current use of the computers is not at full capacity so less computers should not cause any issues.

Staffing: The city is working on the employee compensation study with their follow-up compensation plan. They have continued working on the details of the position-level ranges of pay and recommended title changes. The Council will be voting on this at their meeting this week. There will be a meeting with the employees the week after to discuss.

Fiscal Year: The Fiscal Year ends September 2024. By Mid-October Nelson will have the financials finalized in time for the State Library Statistical Report.

Programs:

The 100th 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 was held on Friday and Saturday, September 13 and 14th. Nelson noted that the keynote speaker, Ridley Pearson, was engaging, encouraging, and fun. This free event brought an attendance of around 1500 – 2000 people. The staff heard good feedback, and the extra helpers were

appreciated this year. The festival also included 10 programs for area public and parochial schools in the three days before the festival.

Kim Brumgard and Nelson will represent the Washington Public Library at the MLS Conference on September 26 through the 28 this month.

Planning for the Smithsonian Exhibit for 2025-2026 will begin now that the book festival & book sale are over. Preparing an initial program plan will be completed by December 2024. At that time MO Humanities will start advertising the program.

Programs Recap

- Where the Lights are Shining – Friends Program August 27th
- Dolly Day – August 30
- The Wild Mississippi – September 12
- Ridley Pearson, Keynote speaker – September 13
- Missouri Book Festival – September 14
- An Introduction to Ball-Jointed Dolls – September 17
- Friends of the Library Book Sale – September 20-22

Programs Upcoming

- Gut Health and Optimal Wellness - Tuesday, September 24, 6:30pm
- Halloween Shrinky Dinks – Tuesday, October 1st, 6:00 p.m.
- Why is Airline flying So Safe? With Richard Steckel – Thursday, October 10, 6:30 p.m.
- Painted Pumpkin Party – Wednesday, October 11th, 4:00 pm.
- Cooking For the Heart – Thursday, October 17, 6:00 p.m. Limit 15

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Jaimie and Doug have volunteered to be on the Strategic Planning Committee. The date of the first meeting will be determined later.

NEW BUSINESS: None

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

NEXT MEETING: October 28, 2024