

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, WASHINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY JANUARY 27,2025

The meeting was called to order by President Carolyn Witt, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present included: Carolyn Witt, Doug Holdmeyer, Sue Wehmuller, Gretchen Pettet, Leanne Gisburne, Molly Maniaci, Jamie Holtmeier, and Chad Briggs. Also in attendance Christa Alfermann, Friends of the Library.

Jamie moved that the agenda be approved. Motion seconded by Doug and the motion carried.

Leanne moved that the minutes of the November Meeting be accepted. Motion seconded by Sue and the motion carried.

January 2025 Director's Report

- **Friends of the Library Report**

- The Friends have adopted a new logo and now have a presence on social media
- Email address: friendsofthewplwashmo@gmail.com

- **Statistics and Collections**

- November and December 2024 Statistics are attached.
- Performance continues to align closely with 2024.
- Passport demand continues to be strong.

- **Patron Behavior**

- Over the cold snap, following the storm, usage as a warming center increased from a handful of individuals into the double-digits. This affects the library experience.
- We have a couple individuals with high mental-health needs that used the library during the cold snap.
- One individual brought in a cat. This individual is argumentative, and has been told to not come back with the cat. He required the police to enforce the policy, as he wanted to argue that the vestibule was not part of the library. Any further infractions will result in termination of library privileges.

- **Winter Storm**

- The Library was open during the winter storm. We did close early on the Monday and Tuesday of the storm, due to the difficulty of staffing the library.
- Washington Public Library was the only library in the area open during the storm. The City wants to keep the library regular hours as much as possible.
- The library was used as a warming center both days.

- Thank You to the City workers for all the de-icing, plowing, and shoveling. It took the better part of a week to get the effects of the storm cleared.
- **Facilities**
 - HVAC Update – the NAU air intake has sensors/controls added, so it can adjust automatically. But the result of making changes has created a couple other problems (such as the boiler going offline) that have hopefully been resolved. It's been too cold.
 - Painting! Painters became suddenly available, and with a ½ day warning I said lets just do it and get it done.
 - City is rehiring for the position that Bill Carroll vacated with his untimely passing. This affects the ability of the library to move forward with replacing the meeting room wall, which is broken.
 - They are working on getting the 2 public fountains replacements scheduled.
 - We do have a slight problem with the water pressure and hot water/cold water mixer. We know of at least one part that needs to be replaced.
 - Thanks to the WHS National Honor Society for sending 10 volunteers to the library in January to help take down the winter/holiday decorations.
- **Fiscal Year**
 - Report was filed in November 2024 for the library's State Fiscal report.
- **Smithsonian Exhibit 2025-2026**
 - We have created an initial program plan for the December 2025 Smithsonian Exhibit with MO Humanities. They will start advertising the program.
- **Past Programs**
 - Turkey Bingo, Wednesday November 27, 9:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
 - Winter Reading Challenge, Starts December 1 and runs through February
 - Gingerbread House Workshop, December 3, 6:00 p.m.
 - Mediterranean Diet, December 19, 6:00 p.m.
 - Countdown to Noon with Bluey, December 31, 11:30 am – 12:30pm. **Special Note:** Bluey's popularity is on a different scale that we have seen before. By early December, the Facebook responses indicated that we had an overwhelming interest in the program. We had 1,000 people attend the program, which we moved to City Auditorium. Some people drove from St. Louis to meet Bluey. The program staff – Ruth, Kim and Kerry – did a fantastic job of making a great experience out of a stressful situation. It was an unforgettable balloon drop, and I think everyone that came left impressed with the turnout. Patrons talked about it with the front desk staff for weeks.
 - We have now run 3 homeschool cooking series, using the Charlie Cart.
- **Future Programs**
 - Missouri Extensions will do a series of cooking programs in the Spring/Summer

- Big Fun Family Game Day – Jan 17 & 18
- Bluey & Friends Scavenger Hunt, January 17 – 31
- Great Puzzle Race – January 21. **Special Note:** This program was so fun, that we will plan more puzzle races. Congratulations to Joette for being on the winning team of the first Puzzle Race.
- What is Homeopathy and How Can It Support You? Tuesday Jan 28 6:30 p.m.
- Ken McGee, author of “Veiled” will speak on Thursday, January 30 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Weird Pet Series – Thursdays, February 13, 20 & 27 @ 4:00 p.m.
- Valentine Riddle Scavenger Hunt, February 14th
- Great Decisions Discussion Group, Wednesdays from Feb 12 – April 2 @ 1:00 p.m.
- Jessi Gold, “How Do You Feel? One Doctor’s Search of Humanity in Medicine” March 13 6:30 p.m.

Jamie moved that the director’s report be accepted, seconded by Grethen. The Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

- No Unfinished Business

New Business

- No New Business

There being no further business, Molly moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Sue. The Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: February 24, 2025