

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WASHINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
April 28, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Carolyn Witt, who led the Pledge. Members present included: Carolyn Witt, Jamie Holtmeier, Joette Reidy, Sue Wehmueller, Gretchen Pettet, Molly Maniaci, and Barbara Volmert. Also in attendance was Chad Briggs and Tim Poepsel from the city.

Joette moved that the agenda be approved. The motion was seconded by Gretchen and the motion carried. Gretchen moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Sue. Motion carried.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT: There was no new information to report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: **Statistics and Collections:** Nelson presented the March 2025 statistics. Passports processed in April were a high number at 113 with 93 photos taken. A soft-launch Notary Public service is underway as two staff members are being trained. Nelson commended the staff on their excellent work and relayed the popularity of new video games as patrons have been asking the staff to stock more.

Patron Behavior: There was one incident with a patron sleeping on the floor in a study room, making a mess, and being removed by the police. The person has not returned.

Facilities: The city has repaired the dividing wall in the conference room themselves, saving money. The task for Nelson now is to evaluate whether the walls will need to eventually be replaced or can the wall be maintained. The Children's Area renovation is getting great parental feedback. Parents are thrilled to not have the small computers in the play area.

Legislature: Nelson provided some updates on the Legislature concerning libraries.

- HB 903, "Reduces The Assessment Percentage Of Tangible Personal Property...".
 - Public hearing in Senate, Voted "Do Pass" on 4/16/25
- HB 557 (elected library boards) –
 - No public hearing
- HB1146 (material reconsiderations)
 - Voted "Do Pass" on 4/24/25

IMLS Update: The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has reduced staff, Nelson thought maybe 10 out of 80, and he is seeing movement on the allocations. The State Library believes that payments are coming, but they will be slow. Meanwhile, Nelson reports that Library Directors have been polled and that the State Library is being pro-active in evaluating priorities.

PROGRAMS:

Missouri Book Festival: The organizing committee met last month. Scenic Regional is not part of the next effort. The next MO Book Festival will be in April 2026. Plans are to simplify it and make it a little smaller.

Voices and Votes: Democracy in America Smithsonian Exhibit: This exhibit is still eight months away. Nelson attended the two-day forum on setting up the exhibit and helped with programming. Nelson feels this is a fantastic exhibit with great support from Missouri Humanities. Actively managing the programming will begin after summer.

Past Programs:

- Book Discussion, April 2, 10:00 am
- Teen Egg Hunt, April 4, 6:00 pm
- Escape Room Event, April 3, 6:00 pm
- Pinckney Bend Distillery, April 15, 6:00 pm
- Book Discussion, April 17, 6:00 pm
- Dan Burkhardt, "Trails across America" Book Talk, April 18, 6:30 pm
- Moment of Grace Flower Arranging, April 16, 6:00 pm
- Tween Lock-In, April 24, 6-9 pm, 40+ attendance, a great turn-out.

Future Programs

- May 1-4 Lightsaber Make & Take
- Puzzle Race 3, May 6, 6:00-7:00 pm
- Loving Your Leafy Greens, Wed., May 7, 6-7pm
- St. Albans, Its History Folklore, Golf and Characters – Thurs, May 8, 6:30pm
- How to Speak Cat, Friday, May 23, 4:00 pm
- Lafayette: The Guest of the Nation: Thurs, May 29, 6:30 pm
- Summer Reading Kickoff Party, Friday, May 30, starts @ 6:00pm

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Jamie motioned to allocate up to \$5,200 in funds from the Avery Trust for the new drinking fountains. Gretchen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: N/A

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

NEXT MEETING: June 23, 2025 (No meeting in May)