

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WASHINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
March 24, 2025 – 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, Jamie Holtmeier, Joette Reidy, and Barbara Volmert. Also in attendance was Chad Briggs from the city.

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

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT: Nelson highlighted that the Friends funded equipment including the new foods stand. The friends also sponsored the recent Family Reading Night.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Statistics and Collections: Nelson presented the February 2025 statistics noting that two snowstorms in February resulted in a slight decrease in library attendance compared with the previous February. Nelson also reported that the library is lending more material to the other libraries in the Missouri Evergreen system than requesting and taking in themselves.

Patron Behavior: In consultation with the City Administrator, Nelson recommended a trespass on an individual this past month for inappropriate behavior and touching of an FKI staff person. This individual has been banned for six months due to this conduct.

Facilities: HVAC Update –The system is maintaining a reasonable temperature. One of the public fountains has been replaced. The other is proceeding as parts are received. The new cost estimate of \$5,000 is about half the original price. The room-divider wall replacement is in process but has not gone out to bid yet. The library has been hearing complaints about the wall not working.

Legislature: Nelson extensively covered new developments in local, state, and federal impacts on the Washington Public Library (WPL).

Board Elections

The Franklin County Clerk's office estimated that Washington Public Library's responsibility for the costs of a Library Board election to fall between \$6,000 - \$8,000 per election. If we call our own special election, it will be up to \$36,000.

HB 903, "Reduces the Assessment Percentage of Tangible Personal Property..."

- Year 1 revenue reduction estimate is \$8,447
- Year 2 revenue reduction estimate is \$16,895
- Year 3 revenue reduction is \$25,342 – this will continue year over year
- A total 3-year revenue reduction estimate is \$50,685

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

Background: In an executive order issued March 14, 2025, President Trump specifically mentioned changes at the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the federal agency tasked with

distributing congressionally appropriated funds to state libraries, which are in turn used to fund statewide initiatives and subgrants to libraries. The Executive Order states that IMLS must be reduced to its “statutory functions” and that all non-statutory components and functions...shall be eliminated to the maximum extent.”

Nelson stated that the IMLS Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and the Grants to States program that provides federal funding to the Missouri State Library is statutorily required. At this time, there are no known impacts expected to current federal funding received by the Missouri State Library (MOSL). The Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA) sunsets on 9/30/25 and will need to be reauthorized. Reauthorization happens through the Senate and Congress. Nelson stated that it would be incredibly important that MLSA gets reauthorized, so the funding to states remains.

In Missouri, \$3,338,467 in federal funds were provided to the Missouri State Library to fund, among other things, a statewide courier system that allows libraries to share items amongst each other to maximize what is available to all Missouri library users. Also provided is funding for an integrated library system consortium (Missouri Evergreen) which allows 80+ libraries to share a card catalog system that further strengthens the idea of resource sharing amongst libraries. These federal funds also support the Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library, as well as the Missouri Digital Heritage project, which is aimed at digitally preserving Missouri’s history and historical documents.

In the last 4 Fiscal Years, 2022-2025, Washington Public Library was awarded \$65,224 in LSTA grants. These allowed us to upgrade our public computers, purchase a Charlie Cart mobile kitchen for healthy eating programs, bring in speakers for the Missouri Book Festival, purchase STEAM Kits for children, purchase Memory Kits for older adults, and more.

IMLS Funds are allocated to support the Missouri Evergreen statewide system. Between the Evergreen fees and the Evergreen Courier, the Library contributes over \$8,000 per year. I expect that number to at least double, and that assumes Evergreen can hold together without IMLS support.

In 2024, WPL circulated 14,465 items to other libraries. WPL circulated 17,745 items it received from other libraries. The total loaned-out and received-from is 32,210. This saves time for library staff, who don’t have to process ILL loans through the On-line Computer Library Center (OCLC). Without Evergreen, staff will use the Inter Library Loans (ILL) through OCLC, which takes longer and results in fewer loans (due to a reduced quality/timeliness of service).

PROGRAMS:

Community Reads kicked off March 24th with the book giveaway. The programs will begin April 1st.

Programs Recap:

- Family Reading Night – March 7. This was another great event. Thank you to Friends of the Library for sponsoring this, and the Community Literacy Foundation who organized the evening.
- Great Puzzle Race – February 25. The next Great Puzzle Race session will be in May.
- Great Decisions Discussion Group, Wednesdays from Feb 26 – April 16 @ 1:00 p.m. Weather postponed this Group the last two Wednesdays.

- Jessi Gold, “How Do You Feel? One Doctor’s Search of Humanity in Medicine” March 13 6:30 p.m.
- Valentine Riddle Scavenger Hunt, February 14th

Future Programs

- Moment of Grace Flower Arranging, April 1, 6:00 pm
- Book Discussion, April 2, 10am
- Escape Room, registration starts Monday, March 24. Event is April 3, 6:00 pm
- Teen Egg Hunt, April 4, 6:00 pm
- Pinckney Bend Distillery, April 15, 6:00 pm
- Dan Burkhardt, “Trails Across America” Book talk, April 17th, 6:30 pm
- Tween Lock-In, April 24, 6-9 pm
- Lightsaber Make and Take, May 1-4
- Puzzle Race 3, May 6th, 6-7 pm

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS: N/A

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

NEXT MEETING: April 28th, 2025