

Daniel Boone Regional Library
Minutes, Meeting of April 13, 2023

Call to Order, Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Mary Fennel, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Daniel Boone Regional Library (DBRL) Board members in attendance were: Bradd Anderson, Margrace Buckler, Dorothy Carner (via Zoom), Susan Daly, Mary Fennel, Tonya Hays-Martin, Jean Howard (via Zoom), Kate Markie, Cori Miller, August Nielson, Pat Powell, Jennifer Rodewald, and Khaki Westerfield. Nate Suttentfield was absent.

Also in attendance were DBRL Executive Director Margaret Conroy, and DBRL managers Kirk Henley, Erin Magner, Amanda McConnell, Nathan Pauley, Eric Schmeck, Angela Scott, Jim Smith, Mitzi St. John, Lauren Williams, and various members of library staff.

Public Comment

Fennel welcomed all guests and explained the guidelines for making a public comment.

Crystal Buffaloe, of Columbia, encouraged the Board, library staff, and members of the public to attend at least one bargaining session, described the meetings, and shared information about the success of another union.

Fennel thanked Buffaloe for her statement.

Minutes

Fennel asked for corrections to the closed and open session minutes of March 16, 2023. Hearing no corrections, she declared both sets of minutes approved as written.

Monthly Reports

Director's Report: Conroy reported that the new Development Manager, Beth McWilliams, started on April 10, and she will attend the May board meeting. She has a lot of ideas for how to bolster the Foundation, and she has the benefit of having worked at DBRL for several months, so she understands and loves the library.

Conroy provided an update on some recent Missouri legislation, noting that there is discussion that all or part of the state aid cut by the House Budget Committee may be restored in the Senate. If the funding remains zeroed out, its incorporation in the budget would be difficult to restore. Due to this, Missouri libraries have gotten national attention, and Conroy has done some interviews discussing the impact the loss of funding would have on DBRL. This loss would equal almost the entirety of DBRL's programming budget, which, other than access to materials, is the heart of what libraries do.

Conroy described other legislation that could impact libraries, and stated that the Secretary of State's Proposed Administrative Rule was published with some responses to select comments received. The State Library can only help to a certain extent with providing guidance for compliance, but DBRL has policies that do comply. The filed bills that codify the Rule's language have not moved forward as of this meeting.

DBRL has received some direct donations due to the funding being removed, and there is a lot of support from citizens. In response to a question from Daly, Conroy responded that contacting Missouri Senators is one way to respond, and there is also a call to action form available on the

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Missouri Library Association website.

DBRL now has a TikTok account to reach an audience otherwise not easily reached.

More information will be shared about the status of RFP's for retirement and investment brokers. Requests for qualifications were received from four firms.

Conroy noted that a card from Melanie Henry was being passed around with a thank you for the flowers the Board purchased for her. Conroy and Magner will be meeting to finalize the interview process for the Human Resources Manager before interviews begin.

Carner joined the meeting via Zoom.

Financial Report: Total revenue and total expenditures are as expected for March.

Service Report: Conroy indicated that statistics continue to improve and noted the recent rise in the use of DBRL's lockers in Hallsville. McConnell added that staff also like the new lockers in Hallsville, and they are easier to use.

Service Spotlight: Fiber Arts Kits – Liz Aleshunas and Katherine Gale

Aleshunas and Gale, both Collections Management librarians, presented the library's Fiber Arts Kits. These kits are funded by the Wulfekammer Fund, which has previously been used to purchase fiber arts books.

Aleshunas explained that there are two types of kits - one for knitting and one for crochet. The kits feature essentially the same items, some to be returned and some for the borrower to keep, including a skein of yarn, a beginner book, crochet hooks or knitting needles, etc. At a request from a staff member, left handed instructions were added to both kits. A resource list is also available in the kit, informing borrowers of where additional library and non-library resources related to the craft can be found.

Gale reported that the kits were added to DBRL's collection on October 5 and holds quickly accumulated. Originally there were five of each type of kit available, but Collections quickly doubled the number to 10 of each kit in response to their popularity. Since October, the crochet kit has been checked out 52 times and placed on hold 97. Knitting has been checked out 51 times and placed on hold 73. As of this meeting, there are still 18 holds on the crochet kits, and one for knitting. Once they are able to be displayed, the kits will be shelved with the discussion and memory care kits.

Upon returning the kits, borrowers have the option to leave feedback. So far, the feedback has been very positive, and suggestions for future kits include cross stitch, embroidery, and weaving, all which would qualify for purchase using the Wulfekammer Fund.

Several Board members provided suggestions of local organizations that may be interested in using the kits, and Markie suggested the possibility of the library offering programming to allow individuals to learn the skills or meet with others who enjoy the activity. The age demographic most interested in the kits is unknown, but it is believed to be mostly adults. The kits were marketed using DBRL's adult blog, but most of their interest has grown naturally.

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Committee Reports:

Evaluation Committee: Nielsen reported that the Evaluation Committee met on April 6 to discuss the evaluation results received regarding the Executive Director.

The committee will share the results and their recommendations with the full board during closed session at the May 11 board meeting.

New Business

Policy 2-670 Library Cards: Conroy stated that the Circulation Committee had made a few updates to the proposed changes for the circulation policy since the previous Board meeting. One significant change was the removal of the ability for a qualified minor to obtain a card without parent permission. The change was made at the advice of the library's attorney to avoid the possibility of the minor accumulating debt and in light of recent state rules concerning minors. Removing this change aligns with current DBRL policy.

The attorney also suggested adding the word "real" before property to distinguish real estate property from other forms. Falsifying account information was added as a reason that borrowing privileges may be suspended. Unverified or temporary addresses were changed to unverified accounts and moved further down the document, and language addressing those who cannot verify their address when applying in-person or those who applied online and have to verify their identity was reworded.

Other changes remain the same, including removing the requirement for Missouri residents not living in a tax-supported library district to pay a fee.

ACTION: Buckler moved, Powell seconded approving the proposed changes to Policy 2-670 Library Cards. The motion passed.

Conroy noted that some software changes will be necessary before implementation, which staff will begin working on shortly.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Staff Announcements

Williams announced that voting for the 2023 One Read had commenced. Voting can be done online or in-person. The finalists consist of one non-fiction and one fiction book, and their descriptions are included with the voting materials. Voting ends on April 28, 2023.

Board Comments/Announcements

There were no board comments or announcements.

Closed Session Concerning Preparation, Including Any Discussions or Work Product, on Behalf of a Public Governmental Body or its Representatives for Negotiations with Employee Groups Under RSMo 610.021(9)

ACTION: Daly moved, Markie seconded entering Closed Session Concerning Matters of Legal Action as Authorized Under RSMo 610.021(9). Vote on the motion was taken by roll call: Anderson – yes; Buckler – yes; Carner – yes; Daly

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– yes; Fennel – yes; Hays-Martin – yes; Howard – yes; Markie – yes; Miller – yes; Nielsen – yes; Powell – yes; Rodewald – yes; Westerfield – yes. The motion passed.

Open session resumed at 7:37 p.m.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Fennel adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Megan James.

Susan Daly, Secretary