

Daniel Boone Regional Library Minutes, Meeting of February 13, 2025

Call to Order, Roll Call and Quorum Determination

Margrace Buckler, President, called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Daniel Boone Regional Library (DRBL) Board members present were Margrace Buckler, Dorothy Carner, Seth Christensen, Dawn Dirks, Mary Fennel, Lisa Finn, Jean Howard, Jacqueline Kelly, Cori Miller, Pat Powell, and Travis Pringle. Jennifer Rodewald, Tonya Hays-Martin, and Shannon Alvis were absent.

Also in attendance was DBRL Executive Director Robin Westphal as well as DBRL managers Erin Magner, Angela Scott, Jim Smith, Mitzi St. John, Joe Facticeau, Lauren Williams, Sheryl Bucklew, Althea Harris, Sara Henry, Kirk Henley, Nathan Pauley, and other members of library staff.

Public Comment

None.

Minutes

There were no corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the January 16, 2025 Board Meeting. The minutes were approved as written.

Monthly Reports

Director's Report:

Robin spoke more about Library Advocacy Day, which was featured in her report. She shared that this event is organized each year by MLA for the purpose of discussing library related legislation and, being held in Jefferson City, to give Library representatives the opportunity to speak with their legislators. Robin shared that the group from DBRL were able to meet with most of our Representatives, only missing a few that were either ill or in session. Robin shared that, at least in Missouri, the Secretary of State and Governor have requested full funding for libraries to continue meaning they support our State Aid revenue. Robin shared that the biggest topic they discussed with our legislators is a proposed bill that has come back which would require library board members to be elected rather than appointed. The cost of these elections would be approximately \$25,000 each year in Callaway County and potentially over \$150,000 in Columbia and Boone County. Robin reported that from their conversations with the legislators, this bill does not seem to be popular, however it is likely that a bill will be introduced that will solidify the application process and perhaps make the

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process more public. Robin reported that she will be attending a similar, but larger, conference in Washington, D.C. called Voices for Libraries. This conference will focus on advancing the importance of federal funds that all states receive from the federal government. Robin further shared that one of the grants we are participating in, that will provide the EV charging stations, is to be funded by these federal grants. Jim shared that the program funds could be frozen, but luckily the City of Columbia has not awarded the bid, so no funds have been obligated yet. Robin reported that DBRL does not rely too heavily on federal funding or state aid, so we could make do without, but that is not the case for many of the other libraries that don't receive the level of property tax revenue that we do.

Robin moved on to share that in person interviews for the Community Resource Specialist will be taking place soon, and thanked the staff for the extra support they have given our patrons in the absence of this position. She also shared some of the upcoming programming we are hosting or involved with for Black History Month. Robin also shared that planning for Summer Reading is already in full swing.

Robin invited Sara Henry to the meeting who introduced Jill Hamilton, our new Youth Services Librarian for Callaway County who started in November. Jill is now working at both the Fulton and Holts Summit locations after coming to DBRL from Rockbridge High School and before that, the Kansas City Public Library.

For the final portion of her report, Robin shared that we are now a member of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative and that the DBRL Managers Retreat will be coming up on the 28th of February. She continued to share that Phil Shearrer, who conducted the assessments during the Executive Director Search, will be the main presenter for this retreat. Beyond this retreat, Robin reported that Phil will continue to do meetings with the managers both as a group and individually throughout the year.

Financial Report:

Jim reported that, as seen in the January report, our Revenue looks good for this month, and that property taxes are ahead due to the change in our collection pattern. Jim reported that under Grant Revenue, he has \$106,374 listed which was received to reimburse DBRL for costs related to our Community Resource Specialist and Safety and Security positions. This grant was written for \$250,000 in total, split between 2024 and 2025. Seth Christensen asked if, with the position being open, will we lose any of the grant money as there is no salary for the grant to cover. Jim reported that it would not affect the grant funds as he does not expect the funds to cover the total salaries and benefits thus, if we hire soon, no funds will be lost. Margrace asked Jim about the status

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of the invoices we have been waiting on from the City of Columbia, to which Jim reported that we are still waiting on three remaining invoices from 2024. Jim shared that these invoices should be received by March and that the City is moving to a new system in 2025 which will hopefully help avoid these issues moving forward.

Service Report:

Robin shared that the statistics for January did not show much change and the snow was to blame for much of the change seen in programming and visit numbers. The biggest note for the report was that the door counter for the Callaway County Public Library is broken again, and counting people more than once, which has inflated the recorded numbers for their library visits. We are working on repairing the door counter once again as, previously, it had been under counting our visits.

Service Spotlight: Union Update from Wendy Rigby, Ida Fogle, and Carolyn Cain

Wendy Rigby, Ida Fogle, and Carolyn Cain introduced themselves and thanked Megan Durham, who could not attend the meeting, for her work on the presentation slides. The group shared updates on DBRLWU, as we have passed the one year anniversary of the ratification, and how the presence of the union has affected its members thus far. The group recapped some of our benefit levels and compared them to national averages of nonunion workers. They also shared some heartwarming stories and first hand attestations from our union staff members on how these benefits have changed their lives including staff being able to quit their second or third jobs, care for sick loved ones using FMLA benefits, feel secure that hours and pay will remain stable, and so much more! The group was happy to report that staff members also shared that they feel more connected to each other and to the organization with the Union Agreement in place. Wendy, Ida, and Carolyn all shared about the benefits of the labor management committee and their shared appreciation for the Board of Trustees.

New Business

None.

Other Business

None.

Staff Announcements

None.

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Board Comments/Announcements

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Margrace Buckler adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Emily Camden.

Jennifer Rodewald, Board Secretary