

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

Call to Order, Roll Call and Quorum Determination

Margrace Buckler, President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

Public Comment

None.

Minutes

There were no corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the February 13, 2025 Board Meeting. The minutes were approved as written.

Monthly Reports

Director's Report:

Robin shared that, as a part of our space evaluations at CPL, we have moved a few offices around in the administration department in an attempt to maximize the space. She added that she, Erin, and Angela are looking at more of our departments and staff areas to better utilize the space as well. Robin mentioned that one of the possibilities they are researching is purchasing modular meeting pods to increase the number of our public meeting spaces which could also be utilized by our Community Resource Specialist to meet with patrons. Robin reported that they are currently researching different vendors, thinking of how to fund these purchases, and that they plan to take a trip to the Kansas City Public Library to see how they have utilized these pods.

Robin reported that the Manager's Retreat was a success and that the managers are all looking forward to continuing to work with Phil Shearrer who led the retreat. She also shared that she recently met with a representative from Veterans United who shared that they would be interested in helping our fundraising efforts in the future for big ticket

Daniel Boone Regional Library

Minutes, Meeting of March 13, 2025

items such as a bookmobile. Robin moved on to share that this year's Outreach and Bookmobile Conference will be held in St. Louis, which is the closest it has been to us as a national conference, and that we will be sending representatives to attend.

In a continued effort to strengthen the relationship between the Foundation and the Regional Board of Trustees, Robin shared that Margrace attended the Foundation's most recent board meeting. The Foundation board members are enthusiastic about this partnership and asked that the board make sure to reach out with any fundraising needs that may arise. Robin also reported that she is now a member of the Labor Management Committee which was established by the union agreement to have equal representation from management and union members. She then shared that we are currently working with Jenny Bossaller of the MU School of Library and Information Systems on a grant for the demonstration garden that will be going in at the Columbia Public Library.

Robin shared that, last week, she attended the Voices for Libraries Conference in Washington, D.C along with a few of her fellow Missouri library directors to advocate for the nearly three million dollars in federal funding that is in potential danger of being cut from the budget. Her group met with representatives from all 10 of our Missouri representatives, one legislator and nine staff members, and spoke about the importance of the federal funding and what it means to Missourians. Robin shared that every staff member had a fond story about libraries, which Robin asked they make sure to report back to their bosses. Robin also addressed a recent press release from Secretary of State Denny Hoskins regarding pausing funding for Overdrive ebooks. Robin stated that the press release was vague and potentially misleading, further explaining that this pause will not affect DBRL in any way. The State Library provides a small amount of funding to Sora, which is a collection of k12 ebooks and audio books for schools, which is owned by Overdrive. There were concerns regarding the material contained in the collection and, while awaiting a response from Overdrive, the Secretary of State decided to pause the funding. People were confused about the situation and we received questions if Libby would be going away, but this pause only affects that school consortium. Jena Howard shared that, before the meeting, she was asked how the library decides how many ebooks to purchase of each title, and Robin deferred the question to Kirk Henley, Collections Manager. Kirk said that the collection management team monitor the number of holds on each title and buy extra copies once a ratio is met. They would love to keep the ratio at one copy per three holds, but digital materials can be too expensive at times causing them to purchase one copy for every four or five holds. Kirk also shared that most publishers sell ebooks as metered licenses meaning they expire after a certain amount of time or after a certain amount of checkouts. Most

Daniel Boone Regional Library

Minutes, Meeting of March 13, 2025

of the titles we purchase expire after a year or two at which point we have to purchase them again if we want to continue offering them.

Financial Report:

Jim reported that, as seen in the February report, our Total Revenue is as expected for this time of year and that property taxes are still ahead due to the change in our collection pattern. Jim shared that Total Expenditures are also on track and pointed out that Vehicle Maintenance is accounted for from the City of Columbia for 2024, but that we are now waiting on the invoices for January and February of 2025.

Service Report:

Robin noted that the areas that show decreases, especially in Outreach Circulation, was due in part to library closures and inclement weather. She also noted that while our circulation and visits were down, our database usage was up. This shows that even when we aren't able to be open, patrons are still using our services.

Service Spotlight: Southern Boone Public Library Updates with Eric Schmeck

Margrace welcomed Eric Schmeck, Branch Manager at the Southern Boone County Public Library to the meeting before he began his presentation about some of the recent accomplishments and programs at SBCPL. Eric reminded the board that SBCPL's native garden was listed as a Garden of Excellence by the Grow Native! Organization in 2021. In 2024, SBCPL was invited to host an open house as part of a statewide showcase of Missouri's Gardens of Excellence along with gardens in St. Louis, Kansas City, and other Mid-Missouri areas. Eric shared that, while there may not have been a huge crowd for the event, the gardening appreciators that joined were very enthusiastic about the garden.

Eric reported that, after a successful project to collect origami paper cranes (which now decorate the ceiling of the branch) from the community during Summer Reading a few years ago, Pam Verduin (Branch Lead) had the idea to continue doing programs involving paper crafting. These programs are well loved by the community and take place the second Tuesday of each month. The greeting card and paper flower making classes have been popular. Eric also mentioned some of the recent author talks that featured Mid-Missouri natives including Allen Eskens, Brian Freeman, and Walter Barga. Several story times for children are offered both at the library and at locations throughout the community. Lastly, Eric shared some of the great community services now offered at the library through partnerships with other organizations, like no-excuse absentee voting, satellite property tax collection and Columbia/Boone Department of

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

Public Health's "Health on Wheels" outreach visits which provide free services like health assessments, blood pressure screenings, Covid-19 testing and more.

New Business

Budget Amendment:

Jim reported that we are asking for a budget amendment to increase the Capital Outlay budget by \$192,640 in order to replace the two boilers at the Columbia Public Library. Jim shared that this replacement was slated for 2026, but that they are failing and need replacing immediately to avoid water quality issues if the boilers fail. Jim shared that if the amendment is approved, staff will be ordering the boilers tomorrow to be installed as soon as possible.

ACTION: Powell moved, Kelly seconded approving the proposed Budget Amendment. The vote was taken by voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

None.

Staff Announcements

None.

Board Comments/Announcements

Pat Powell congratulated Jean Howard on her quilt that is being shown nationally. Jean shared that the quilt has been in an exhibition called Color Improvisation 3, which premiered in Germany, but that it is now being shown in the U.S. for the first time in Lincoln, Nebraska. The opening was last week and will be on exhibition until the middle of August.

Closed Session Concerning Matters of Personnel as Authorized Under RSMo 610.021(3)

ACTION: Howard moved and Alvis seconded entering the Closed Session Concerning Matters of Personnel as Authorized Under RSMo 610.021(3). The vote was taken by roll call: Alvis– yes; Buckler – yes; Carner – yes; Christensen – yes; Dirks – yes; Fennel – yes; Finn – yes; Hays-Martin – yes; Howard yes; Kelly – yes; Miller – yes; Powell – yes; Pringle – yes; and Rodewald – yes. The motion passed.

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

Open session resumed at 7:23

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Margrace Buckler adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Emily Camden.

Jennifer Rodewald, Board Secretary