

Callaway County Library District
Minutes, Meeting of October 28, 2024

Call to Order, Roll Call and Quorum Determination

Tonya Hays-Martin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Callaway County Library District Board members present were Tonya Hays-Martin, President; Jean Howard; Cori Miller; and Mary Fennel. Nate Sutenfield was absent.

Also in attendance were DBRL Interim Co-Executive Directors Erin Magner and Angela Scott and DBRL managers Sara Henry, Nathan Pauley, Jim Smith, Sheryl Bucklew, and other members of library staff.

Public Comment

None.

Minutes

There were no corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the August 26, 2024 Callaway County Library District Board Meeting. The minutes were approved as written.

Fulton Public Library – proposed change to Tuesday evening hours

Erin Magner shared that currently, the Callaway County Public Library closes at 6:00 PM during the week, except for Tuesdays when it closes at 8:00 PM. Erin shared that we would like to change the Tuesdays hours to match the other days of the week (and to match the Holts Summit hours). Erin shared that there have been very low or no checkouts during these 2 hours since the change was made in 2021. Further, the programs held from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm have seen low attendance. Due to the layout of the building, there must be staff on both levels during open hours and with the staffing issues faced at the branch, these extra two hours take up more staff time than what is available. Sara Henry, Branch Manager, and Julie Murphy, Branch Lead, added that changing the closing hours would actually allow for more after hours programming because less staff are needed for programs happening after hours and the extra staffing hours gained would allow for more coverage throughout the week.

Mary Fennel shared that, as a member of the Friends of the Callaway County Library, when they have needed to stay late a staff member has always been willing and able to stay with the group if needed. Cori Miller shared that she thought it was a great idea.

Jean Howard shared some concern that patrons would lose access to the library if they had no late hours, especially commuters coming from Columbia, and shared that she remembered the board promising more hours at a tax levy hearing in the past. Erin Magner referred back to the statistics regarding the current foot traffic and Angela Scott shared that there is an average of 1-2.75 people entering the library per hour after 6 PM. Further, Sara Henry shared that the

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additional hours were promised at the tax levy in 2021 when the library was still operating on COVID hours, thus, even with reducing the hours, we are still at more hours than we were when the discussion was had. Julie Murphy shared that this change would, in a way, extend late hours because they would be able to stay late on any day of the week for special programs rather than just on Tuesdays.

Erin stated that we can try the new hours, with additional after hours programs on other nights, and report back to the board on attendance and any concerts received from the community. Erin further shared that, if the board were to move forward with this recommendation, it would still be on the agenda for the November DBRL Board Meeting. Thus, the PR department would have time to release a statement and allow any concerned patrons the opportunity to speak on the issue before the vote is made.

ACTION: Fennel moved, and Miller seconded recommending the DBRL board of trustees approve changing the closing hours at the Callaway County Public Library on Tuesdays to 6:00 PM with the expectation that additional after hours programs are had on other nights of the week. The vote was taken by roll call: Hays-Martin - yes; Howard - yes; Miller -yes; and Fennel - yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

None.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Tonya adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Emily Camden.

Tonya Hays-Martin, President