

# **Daniel Boone Regional Library Minutes, Meeting of January 15, 2026**

## **Call to Order, Roll Call and Quorum Determination**

Cori Miller, President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Also in attendance was DBRL Executive Director Robin Westphal as well as DBRL managers Erin Magner, Jim Smith, Mitzi St.John, Eric Schmeck, Nathan Pauley, Sarah Howard, Lauren Williams, Chad Gooch, Kirk Henley and other members of library staff.

## **Public Comment**

None.

## **Minutes**

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

## **Monthly Reports**

### Director's Report:

Robin Westphal began her report by welcoming Steven Medrow, our newest board member from the Callaway County Library District (CCLD) board, who attended his first meeting as a trustee in November. Robin shared that, sadly, we recently lost a former board member, Terry Bruner, who served on the board from October 2006 to 2009.

Moving forward, Robin shared that she would like to treat this report as a sort of year in review for 2025. A few of the highlights mentioned include DBRL receiving the Senator Chuck Graham Memorial Disability and Advocacy Ambassador Award from the City of Columbia, the Read to Succeed program launching, one Excel Adult Highschool graduation, the DBRL Foundation store launching, and the addition of fishing poles and tackle boxes to our collection. Our staff have supported each other at every step of the year; from the sad times, in mourning our beloved coworker Debb Wheeler, to the happy times, like celebrating the accomplishments of our staff members that accepted awards for their great work. Two such awards were given to Tim Dollens (Cosmopolitan International Patrick G. Hopkins award) and Hillary Aid (Missouri Library Association's Youth Service Award) for their excellence in service to our community the way they know best.

Looking at the broader overview of things that impacted libraries in 2025, Robin spoke about the challenges and censorship concerns we continue to see across the country, and the ways we have fought back. Robin reported that, In Missouri, a Jackson County circuit judge struck down a law that sought to criminalize school staff for providing sexually explicit material stating the law was unconstitutionally vague and overbroad. Nationally, the Institute for Museum and Library

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Services was completely defunded but, through a lawsuit and other actions, was reopened and they were able to receive federal funds as normal.

Robin shared that 2026 is going to be a full year as well with Union negotiations, the 25th anniversary of One Read, developing our new Strategic Plan, and the continuation of various building projects. With the end of her report, Robin took questions starting with Jacqueline Kelly who asked if there was anything disappointing or anything that Robin regrets not pursuing in 2025 that she looks to do in 2026. Robin shared that, during her first board meeting as Director, we presented the results from our DEI audit in which recommendations were made by the consultants that we have not yet adopted. However, Robin shared that these items are on the radar for 2026. Tonya Hays-Martin asked if there is any update regarding the timeline and alternate locations for the Callaway County Public Library (CCPL) HVAC Replacement as it will have the library closed for 90 days. Robin shared that we have gotten the contract signed and that work will begin on March 30 with the replacement parts scheduled to arrive on April 20. Robin added that now is the time that staff will be meeting again to plan what we will do to continue services possible at an alternate location, but that we have not solidified any alternate facility options.

### Financial Report:

Jim began his report by highlighting an error that made it into the November financial report, namely a corrupted data point on page three. Moving forward to the December report, Jim shared that the report is still preliminary as we have yet to receive information from the Boone County Treasurer's office on final property tax numbers as well as our November and December interest for our investments.

Under the Assets section on the Balance Sheet, Jim reported that Checking is quite a bit higher than last year as we have built the cash balance up for our two large building projects in 2026; finishing the CCPL HVAC project and the Columbia Public Library (CPL) roof replacement. Jim highlighted that Fixed Assets will be updated for the final report once we gather that information.

Moving onto the Revenues and Expenditures Sheet, under Revenues, Jim reported that we are ahead of budget having collected more tax revenue than we had budgeted. Looking at the Investment Interest on Taxes is already at 98% collected and still have two months of data we have yet to receive. Lastly for this section, Jim reported Contributions are at 36% collected as we will not receive the full amount due from the Foundation to pay for the CCPL HVAC project in 2025 as the project will continue into 2026. Moving on to the Expenditures section, under Salaries and Benefits, Jim reported that we were at 96% expended and will be at 98% expended for the final report. Looking at the Building Operations and Maintenance section, Jim reported that the Insurance Building and Liability line had a surprising addition of a final invoice for our Workers Compensation Audit which resulted in an increase for our insurance fees causing us to go slightly over budget. Lastly, Jim reported that, under Furniture, Equipment, and Capital Outlay, we remain over budget as the funds will be reappropriated to 2026 for the CCPL HVAC project and the EV Charging Stations grant with the City of Columbia.

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### Service Report:

Robin noted, from the December report, that the number of Library programs for the year was up 15% compared to 2024 while program attendance was up 10%. Robin also noted the increases in the uses of our meeting rooms adding that information like this will be helpful as we move forward with our strategic plan and space planning for the CPL. Robin reflected that we have added our passport, notary, and community resource data to our report in 2026 and that, in 2026, she would like to add social media data as well.

### **Service Spotlight - Americans and the Holocaust Exhibit**

Seth Smith, Public Services Librarian, introduced himself to the board noting that he has met a few members already through the presentation they had given together at the MLA Conference last year. Seth continued on to share details for the Americans and the Holocaust traveling exhibit including a glimpse of the exhibit's homepage on the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum website, highlighting it as a valuable resource with extensive information about the exhibit, its panels, and the museum itself. He further shared personal reflections on visiting the museum in Washington, D.C. for training, describing it as an impressive and emotionally powerful institution.

Providing some background information on DBRL's participation, Seth shared that we applied for the grant to host the exhibit in the fall of 2023 and it was awarded in January of 2024 making us one of two libraries in Missouri to be selected. The exhibit is jointly sponsored by the American Library Association and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum with seamless collaboration in organizing the exhibit and materials. Seth shared that the exhibit will be located on the 3rd floor of the Columbia Public Library in our Quiet Reading Room.

The exhibit itself consists of four panel walls in a plus-sign configuration with supplemental multimedia stations. Seth shared that the exhibit's core purpose, as stated by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, is to encourage visitors to move beyond asking "What would I have done?" to also asking "What would I do?" with many contemplative elements to the panels. The panels cover a wide range of topics, including antisemitism in the United States, Jim Crow laws, racism in the 1930s, refugee and immigration issues, isolationism, eugenics, race laws, and the actions of individuals such as Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. Seth added that of the supplemental programming, one of the events will include a storyteller portraying Elenor Roosevelt. Other supplemental programming includes student reflections tied to performances of *The Diary of Anne Frank* at Hickman High School, a screening and discussion of *The U.S. and the Holocaust* (based on the Ken Burns documentary) featuring University of Missouri faculty and a representative from City of Refuge, a Holocaust survivor talk, and additional events hosted both at the library and on the University of Missouri campus.

The webpage for the exhibit is live on the DBRL.org website with the exhibit opening on February 9. Seth shared that there will be guided tours available with our staff docents as well as members of the Congregation Beth Shalom in Columbia. He further shared that the Congregation Beth Shalom and Hillel at Mizzou (under director Gene Snodgrass) have been

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hugely helpful in organizing our external events and community engagement. Seth further shared praise for Lauren Williams, DBRL's Public Services Manager, in her extensive assistance with the project.

### **New Business**

None.

### **Other Business**

None.

### **Staff Announcements**

Robin Westphal shared that we recently had a showing of the documentary The Librarians at Rag Tag, which Robin participated on a panel for. She shared that it was a full house showing, selling out in 10 minutes. It was so popular that Rag Tag will be showing the film again soon, and we will also have another showing at CPL in the Friends Room on April 22.

### **Board Comments/Announcements**

Jacqueline Kelly shared that she listened to a recent Author Talk featuring author David Brooks adding that it was fantastic and that she recommends the Author Talks to everyone.

Travis Pringle shared that he attended the Excel Adult High School graduation over the weekend and strongly recommended the other trustees to attend the next if they are able. He shared that Lauren Williams was amazing in organizing the event and that it was a truly joyous occasion for the families and community.

### **Adjournment**

Hearing no further business, Cori Miller adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Emily Camden.

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Jean Howard, Board Secretary