

MINUTES OF THE DAVIESS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MONTHLY MEETING

August 16, 2023

Members Present: Michelle Drake
Rodney Ellis
Susan Gesser
Harry Pedigo
Chris Gendek

Others Present: Erin Waller, Director
Debbie Young, Business Manager
Jerry Chapman, Daviess County Citizens for Decency
Kathryn Crowe, Daviess County Citizens for Decency
Noah Elkins, Daviess County Citizens for Decency
Josh Kelly, Reporter-Owensboro Times

The meeting was called to order by President Michelle Drake at 5:04 p.m.

Since there were guests at the meeting, Michelle Drake announced that Public Comment would be moved to the first Agenda item. Jerry Chapman distributed binders to the Board and Ms. Waller that listed 248 books that the DCC4D group viewed as pornographic and violated public trust. The group demanded that the books be immediately removed from the children and teen areas and moved to the adult book sections, library policies revised regarding the terms of library cards and implement Ratedbooks.org system to rate books in the Library. Mr. Chapman strongly urged the Library not to participate in future Pride month programs and to divorce the Library from the ALA (American Library Association) since it is being led by a Marxist. Mr. Chapman indicate if the demands were not met they would notify the press and start legal proceedings against the Library. Kathryn Crowe spoke that she was appalled after reading some of the books and indicated they were not asking for the books to be banned but moved to the adult section. Noah Elkins told the Board that he checked out books on the Pride displays during Pride month and was shocked at the content in the books. He said there should be the same ratings for books as there is for movies.

The Board indicated they would not be able to immediately agree to any demands and that the Board would discuss the issue. Ms. Drake thanked the group for attending the meeting and they left the meeting. The Board discussed the various issues and asked Ms. Waller to treat this as a Request for Reconsideration and pull the books on the list and follow the same procedures to evaluate them.

Michelle Drake called for the approval of the minutes of the July 19 board meeting and July 26, August 4 and August 11 Special Meetings. After review and hearing no comments or corrections, Susan Gesser made a motion to approve all minutes as presented. Chris Gendek seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Rodney Ellis presented the Treasurer's Report. He went over the July, 2023 financial report including the receipts and expenditures for the month. Hearing no comments or corrections, Chris Gendek made a motion to approve the financial report and expenditures as presented. Susan Gesser seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Rodney Ellis went over the options for the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Tax Rate. He led a discussion and answered questions. Mr. Ellis noted that the Real Property compensating rate was lower than the Library's last year rate, but felt the compensating rate was adequate to meet the approved budget. Mr. Ellis indicated that the compensating rate for Tangible Personal Property, Aircraft and Inventory had increased a minimal amount (6.42 cents per \$100) over prior year but felt that keeping the prior year rate would be adequate to meet the approved budget. After discussion, Susan Gesser made a motion to accept compensating rate for Real Property in the amount of 5.9 cents per \$100, the prior year rate for Tangible Personal Property, Aircraft and Inventory in the amount of 6.39 cents per \$100 and 4.0 cents per \$100 for Auto Tax. Chris Gendek seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The approved rates will be sent to the Daviess County Fiscal Court to be presented at the next Fiscal Court meeting. Ms. Waller indicated she plans to attend the Fiscal Court meeting to present the tax rates.

Ms. Waller presented the Director's Report and discussed the following:

- Ms. Waller indicated she had not heard anything on the Board Member appointment.
- Ms. Waller reported that the Library had a fantastic Summer Reading programs this year with 1,700 people registered and over a million minutes read. Attendance at programs was great.
- Ms. Waller discussed that the first week of October is Banned Book Week (Freedom to Read) and asked the Board about thoughts on book displays or doing something other than books. The Board thought maybe using quotes about Banned Book Week would be more appropriate.
- Ms. Waller indicated that she was still planning the September 11 Staff Day and so far had General Allen Youngman to present on Active Shooter Training, Human Relations Commissions to speak about employee rights, followed by lunch and then a fun team building event for the afternoon.

There was no Old Business.

Michelle Drake called for New Business – Request for New Library Position. Ms. Waller distributed a Job Description for a Human Resources Manager as well as two salary classification calculations. Ms. Waller indicated that she had searched on Indeed as well as other job sites, to compare different job skills and salaries. The Board asked Ms. Waller to follow up with the HR Consulting Group, ResilientHR (Gayle Hobbs and Rob Carlton) to see what help they could offer on the job description, salary, etc.

There was no additional Public Comment.

Michelle Drake called for Closed Session – Discussion that may lead to the appointment, dismissal or disciplining of an individual employee. Rodney Ellis made a motion to go into Closed Session. Chris Gendek seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Michelle Drake called for Open Session. Rodney Ellis made a motion to return to Open Session. Susan Gesser seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Drake indicated that no action was taken in Closed Session.

Josh Kelly asked the Board questions about the presentation made by the Daviess County Citizens for Decency group.

Michelle Drake indicated that she had a conflict with the September 20 Board Meeting. After discussion, Rodney Ellis made a motion to move the September Board meeting to Wednesday, September 13. Susan Gesser seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Debbie Young will send out all the required notices and emails to report the meeting date change.

Having no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. The next meeting of the Daviess County Public Library Board of Trustees will be on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in the Third Floor Board Room.

Michelle Drake