

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

February 16, 2022

Members Present: Michelle Drake
Rodney Ellis
Susan Gesser (virtual)
Beena Vora (virtual)
Harry Pedigo (virtual)

Others Present: Erin Waller, Director
Debbie Young, Business Manager
Nathan Havenner, Reporter – Messenger Inquirer
Charlie Castlen, Fiscal Court Liaison
Richard Tutt, American Engineers, Inc.
Roberta Geiger

The meeting was called to order by President Michelle Drake at 5:00 p.m.

Michelle Drake called to move Public Comment to the top of the Agenda since a member of the public was in attendance at the meeting who wished to address the Board. Ms. Drake asked the guest to introduce herself and she could proceed with her comments. Ms. Roberta Geiger introduced herself and said she would like to discuss the fact that the Library uses a collection agency and turns over patron accounts to the agency for overdue fees. She indicated she had been a patron at other libraries in the past and this was not done. Ms. Geiger indicated she had not received any mailings before her account was turned over to a collection agency but also indicated that she had moved her residence in that period. Ms. Geiger said she was not aware when she signed up to get her library card that this could happen, and that a collection agency would receive her address and phone number. Ms. Drake asked Erin Waller to respond to Ms. Geiger's complaint and Ms. Waller indicated it was common practice for libraries to use a third-party vendor for collection of overdue fees. Ms. Waller indicated that the Library had waived half of Ms. Geiger's late fees and that it is the Library's practice to work with any patron on late fees. Ms. Drake asked Ms. Geiger if she would like to have someone from the Library contact her to set up a payment plan. Ms. Geiger responded that it was not a money issue and that she would pay the fees when she was ready but the fact that it was not disclosed that her account would be turned over to a collection agency. Ms. Drake indicated that we would review the process and thanked Ms. Geiger for her attendance at the meeting. Ms. Drake let Ms. Geiger know she was welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting or could leave the meeting. Ms. Geiger chose to leave the meeting.

Michelle Drake called for the approval of the minutes of the January meeting. After review and hearing no comments or corrections, Rodney Ellis made a motion to approve the January minutes as presented. Beena Vora seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Rodney Ellis presented the Treasurer's Report. He went over the January 2022 financial report including the receipts and expenditures for the month. Hearing no comments or corrections, Susan Gesser made a motion to approve the financial report and expenditures as presented. Harry Pedigo seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

- Ms. Waller noted that she was attending a Focus Group Meeting at Owensboro Public Schools and the Library will be working as a partner on some plans that should be revealed next week.
- Ms. Waller indicated that the displays in the Foyer area has been moved.
- Ms. Waller updated the Board on two legislative bills that were proposed that could affect the Library. Both House Bill 480 and Senate Bill 167 propose a change in how the Library Board would be put into place. The proposed bills would require the Library Board members terms to expire on January 1, 2023 and the County Judge Executive would appoint the new board members going forward. Both bills have been moved to a legislative committee and Ms. Waller will keep everyone updated about the bills.

Michelle Drake called for Old Business – Parking Lot Expansion Project. Mrs. Waller introduced Richard Tutt to discuss the Parking Lot plans. Mr. Tutt reviewed with the Board a letter from the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission that indicated there was no conflict with the proposed plan. The next step would be to get together the Bid Package with both the regular and alternate plans so it can be advertised for contractors. Most contractors will start work in April. Harry Pedigo made a motion to move forward and go to bid on the parking lot expansion project. Susan Gesser seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

There was no New Business.

There was no additional Public Comment.

Having no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:51 p.m. The next meeting of the Daviess County Public Library Board of Trustees will be on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. in the Third Floor Board Room.

