

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

February 21, 2024

Members Present: Susan Gesser
Rodney Ellis
Kevin Dorth

Members Absent: Chris Gendek

Others Present: Erin Waller, Director
Debbie Young, Business Manager
Janie Marksberry, Fiscal Court Liaison

The meeting was called to order by President Susan Gesser at 5:00 p.m.

There were approximately (30) people attending the Board Meeting but only a few had indicated they would address the Board. Susan Gesser noted that Public Comment would be held at the end of the meeting as indicated on the Agenda. Mrs. Gesser indicated the business portion of the Board Meeting would begin and 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. Kevin Dorth seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Rodney Ellis presented the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Ellis indicated the Board Members had received the January financial reports, including the receipts and expenditures for the month. He asked if anyone had questions, and hearing no comments or corrections, Susan Gesser made a motion to approve the January financial report and expenditures as presented. Kevin Dorth seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

- The Library is working on a partnership with the Daviess County Detention Center to develop a library of books for the inmates.
- The Library has been holding a Home School Adventures Program for children ages 6-12 and their parents. The program has been very popular, and attendance has been great.
- The Friends of the Library are holding a Trivia Night on March 16 with the registration fee of \$50.00 for a team and \$20.00 for an individual or a cheerleader.
- The Seed Library is now open with approximately 60 people attending the Grand Opening.
- Mrs. Waller encouraged everyone to visit the Second Floor to view the Art Show display that is in observance of Black History Month.
- The Library statistics and program attendance have been up for the last few months.

Susan Gesser called for Old Business – Board Member Nominations-Harry Pedigo Resignation – Update. Mrs. Waller reported that the two names submitted for the open board seat were rejected. The next step is to submit additional board member applications to KDLA, who reviews and then chooses two names to send to Judge Executive Castlen. This must be completed within 30 days.

Susan Gesser called for New Business – KPLA 2024 Conference-Staff Development Day-Request to Close to Public. Mrs. Waller discussed with the Board that the KPLA 2024 Conference is being held in Owensboro at the Convention Center on March 20 through March 22. There will be Library staff attending the conference from all over Kentucky. Mrs. Waller requested that the Library be closed to the public on Thursday, March 21 so that staff can attend the conference. After discussion, Rodney Ellis made a motion to close the Library to the public on Thursday, March 21 for staff to attend the KPLA conference. Kevin Dorth seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Susan Gesser called for Public Comment. The Guest Sign in Sheet with the names of the people who attended and spoke to the Board is attached to these minutes (note: some guests did not sign in). Janie Marksberry made inquiries about the \$35,000 the Library spent in response to the Daviess County Citizens for Decency open records request for the relocation of teen books (as reported in the Messenger Inquirer). Mrs. Marksberry asked if the staff pay reported was for overtime or regular pay and Mrs. Waller responded it was regular pay. Mrs. Marksberry also asked about how many books had been removed from the Library. Mrs. Waller responded there were books removed that were damaged or newer editions available but did not have the number of those books.

Cheryl Brown, spokesperson for the Coalition for an Inclusive Daviess County, asked a question for Janie Marksberry as to why the two board members nominations were rejected by the Fiscal Court. Mrs. Marksberry responded and said the law states that it is the Judge Executive's choice to either select or reject the candidates. Mrs. Brown then asked about the process for choosing the second set of nominations. Mrs. Waller responded because it was an unexpired open board seat, the process was that KDLA would select the next two board member nominations to be sent to Judge Executive Castlen, based on board member applications that will be sent to KDLA.

Arnie Weiner stated that the Daviess County Public Library has been in the news a lot lately with statements that the Library does not represent the community. Mr. Weiner said the Library is a perfect example of what a Library should be and is a great resource for the community. The Library contains material for all and if you look at the monthly activity calendar, the programs are both diverse and inclusive.

Cher Eaves asked a question about how many books the Library has removed for content in the last five years. Mrs. Waller responded that no books had been removed for content.

Susan Gesser added her Public Comment that she looks forward to the time when programming is discussed and perhaps emphasizing "what the Library means to us (community members)". Mrs. Gesser

noted that she is a long-time library user and the library has provided many books and services to herself, her family and friends, who would otherwise not have access to such.

Having no further business to come before the Board, Susan Gesser made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rodney Ellis seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m. The next meeting of the Daviess County Public Library Board of Trustees will be on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Third Floor Board Room.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Susan Gesser", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Daviess County Public Library
Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting
Guest Sign In Sheet

Date: February 21, 2024

Name

Do you Wish to
Speak to the Board?
Yes or No?

Mary Danhauer

No

KATNY ESKES

No

Debbie McCoy

No

Cheryl Bell

No

Carol Bell

No

Nancy G. Smith

No

Ken Vogel

No

Elaine Stephen Grant

No

Cheryl Brown

Yes

Kathy Walker

No

Kathy Walker

No

~~Kathy Walker~~

No

~~Kathy Walker~~

No

~~Kathy Walker~~

No

Peggy Wilson

No

M. Green

Kora

No

Claudia Farnish

No

Sahay Mathrup

No

Cindy Mulligan

No

ARNIE WEINER

Yes

GAIL WAINSTEIN

No

Petra Mulligan

No

John Mulligan

No

Cher Eaves

Yes

Kaitlyn Webb

No

Tom Shively

Yes → next month