

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

May 15, 2024

Members Present: Susan Gesser  
Chris Gendek  
Kevin Dorth  
Kathi Mattas

Members Absent: Rodney Ellis

Others Present: Erin Waller, Director  
Debbie Young, Business Manager  
Janie Marksberry, Fiscal Court Liaison  
Josh Kelly, Reporter-Owensboro Times  
Scott Hagerman, Reporter-Messenger-Inquirer

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

There were approximately (23) people attending the Board Meeting with three people indicating 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 April meeting. After review and hearing no comments or corrections, Chris Gendek made a motion to approve the April minutes as presented. Kathi Mattas seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Rodney Ellis was absent from the meeting; therefore, Debbie Young presented the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Young went over the April financial reports, including the receipts and expenditures for the month. She asked if anyone had questions, and hearing no comments or corrections, Kevin Dorth made a motion to approve the April financial report and expenditures as presented. Chris Gendek seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

In the absence of Rodney Ellis, Erin Waller presented the 2024/2025 Budget. She went over the proposed revenue, expenditures, and capital projects. Mrs. Waller also noted that Mr. Ellis had reviewed the budget. After the Board reviewed and discussed the budget, Kathi Mattas made a motion to approve the 2024/2025 Budget as presented. Kevin Dorth seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

- Silas House, Kentucky Poet Laureate, and national bestselling author was the speaker at the May Rooster Booster. The Library gave away copies of his book at the event and it was a great turnout and event.
- The Library is gearing up for Summer Reading. This year's theme is "Read, Roar and Explore". The Summer Reading Kickoff event is Wednesday, May 29. It is expected to be a busy summer at the Library.
- The Collection Development Department has completed its first full materials inventory since 2019 and over 190,000 items were inventoried.
- A record number of books were given away at the Imagination Library Annual Storybook Breakfast with over 600 people attending the event.
- Welcome to Kathi Mattas as a new Board Member.
- The Library has two Library employees – Jarrod McCarty and Heather Mast who have completed their Masters in Library Science (MLS) degrees.
- Ryan Tooley, Assistant Manager in the Public Services Department has resigned his position and has taken a position at Southern Star.

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

Susan Gesser called for Public Comment. Cheryl Brown from the Coalition for an Inclusive Daviess County thanked Erin Waller and team for all they do and again offered their support for the Library. Arnie Weiner commented that the Library should not give into a small group that is bullying and using dominance, power and control to try to get their way. The Library should not give into the bullying as they would just ask for more and more.

Commissioner Larry Conder, Daviess County Fiscal Court expressed gratitude to the Library Board for their time to serve on the Board and wanted to express to the Library Director and staff his gratitude for the work being done. Mr. Conder said he was not a part of either group and was elected by the people to serve the people. He told Erin Waller to take care of all the staff and citizens and to think of the end game and what she does is important.

Janie Marksberry asked about Pride Month activities and asked if there were goodie bags. Erin Waller responded there were not goodie bags. Ms. Marksberry said there was a text sent out by a mother about inappropriate books in the Library. Ms. Marksberry displayed the book "Let's Talk About it" and indicated such material should not be available to children and that kids are kids until age 18 and there should not be pornography in the Library. Ms. Marksberry encouraged the press and public to look at the book.

Kathy Walker commented that she was a retired educator and reading was her passion and she cares for the Library. The definition of pornography is not met by the books in the Library as she had read many of the books on the list. Ms. Walker indicated she supports the Library Board, staff, and Erin Waller.

President Susan Gesser reported that there has been a policy in place for a long time that if a person objects to any material in the Library, they can file a Request for Reconsideration and the book will be reviewed by Library staff

Having no further business to come before the Board, Chris Gendek made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kathi Mattas seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m. The next meeting of the Daviess County Public Library Board of Trustees will be on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Third Floor Board Room.

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