

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

August 20, 2024

Members Present: Susan Gesser
Rodney Ellis
Kevin Dorth
Kathi Mattas

Others Present: Erin Waller, Director
Debbie Young, Business Manager

The meeting was called to order by President Susan Gesser at 4:59 p.m.

There were approximately (35) people attending the Board Meeting with seven people indicating they would address the Board. Susan Gesser noted that Public Comment would be held after the business portion of the meeting, and noted that each person speaking should give their name and address to indicate they lived in Owensboro/Daviess County.

Mrs. Gesser called for the approval of the minutes of the July meeting. After review and hearing no comments or corrections, Kevin Dorth made a motion to approve the July minutes as presented. Kathi Mattas seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Rodney Ellis presented the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Ellis went over the July 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 July financial report and expenditures as presented. Kathi Mattas seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Rodney Ellis went over the Tax Rates for the Fiscal Year 2024/2025. He led a discussion and answered questions. Mr. Ellis noted that all the compensating tax rates were lower than the Library's last year rates, but felt the compensating rates were adequate to meet the approved budget. Mr. Ellis indicated that the compensating rate for Real Property was 5.70 cents per \$100, Tangible Personal Property, Aircraft and Inventory was 6.20 cents per \$100 and Motor Vehicle tax was 4.00 cents per \$100 (no change). After discussion, Rodney Ellis made a motion to accept compensating rates for all taxes, Real Property in the amount of 5.70 cents per \$100, Tangible Personal Property, Aircraft and Inventory in the amount of 6.20 cents per \$100 and 4.00 cents per \$100 for Auto Tax. Kevin Dorth seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The approved tax rates will be sent to the Daviess County Fiscal Court to be presented at the next Fiscal Court meeting.

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

- We have hired a Human Resources Coordinator – David Douglas. He has over 20 years' experience in the HR field and will be starting work on September 9.
- Summer Reading has ended and we had 2,300 people registered, and 1.3 million reading minutes logged and over 10,000 people participated in all the Summer Reading programs.
- The Library will be partnering with the Public Life Foundation on a new early childhood initiative called Checkmarks. The promotional materials are being worked on and we will use the tower room windows this fall with a new wrap.
- Erin Waller received an email from Chris Gendek at 2 pm today resigning from the Board. Ms. Waller noted the application to apply for the open Board position is on the DCPL website under Board of Directors at the bottom of the page. Since this is an unexpired seat, KDLA will choose two names to send to Judge Executive Castlen at Daviess County Fiscal Court to choose who will fill the open seat.

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

Susan Gesser called for Public Comment. She indicated each person would have two minutes to speak and to make sure to give their name and address before speaking (the two-minute time would begin after their introduction).

Kevin Whear, Trey Matthews, and Jonas Carpenter spoke of their religious beliefs and how it applied to books at the Library. They believed the Library should apply God's objective standards to Library practices, and remove obscene and gender dysmorphic books from the Children's section. Mr. Matthews commended and thanked the library for both the Children's summer reading program and the water/cooling station.

Mary Danhauer, David Norris , Marilyn VanWinkle, Cheryl Brown, Jim Riney, Becky Martin, Kathy Walker and Claudia Ramisch spoke and supported the Library and offered gratitude to the Library staff as well as all the programs at the Library. They noted Young Adult literature is important for coming of age and reading books does not make anyone transgender or gay. Mrs. Brown said the Library is not a church or political party and the Library is open to all and this privilege should not be taken away from anyone.

No one else indicated they wished to address the Board.

Kathi Mattas noted that asking for sexually explicit materials from the Children or Young Adult's section to be moved to the Adult section is not equal to banning or burning books. Parents should be allowed to choose and to allow the books for their children if they are in the Adult area.

Susan Gesser noted that if anyone does not want their children to read certain books, they should get a restricted access card. If anyone has an objection to a book there is a Request for Reconsideration Form that can be completed and submitted for a review of the book.

Susan Gesser indicated that the Board would go into Closed Session for deliberations on the future acquisition of real property and everyone would need to leave the room but could return after coming back into Open Session. Rodney Ellis made a motion to go into Closed Session. Kevin Dorth seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Rodney Ellis made a motion to return to Open Session, Kathi Mattas seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Susan Gesser reported that no action was taken in the Closed Session.

Having no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m. The next meeting of the Daviess County Public Library Board of Trustees will be on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Public Lounge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Gesser", is positioned in the lower center of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small arrow pointing to the right at the end of the "er" in "Gesser".