

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

March 19, 2025

Members Present: Rodney Ellis, Treasurer
Kathi Mattas, Secretary
Al Mattingly

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

The meeting was held in the second floor public lounge and called to order by Rodney Ellis, Treasurer, at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Ellis called for approval of the February 2025 meeting's minutes. After review, and hearing no comments or corrections, the motion to approve was made by Al Mattingly, seconded by Kathi Mattas, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rodney Ellis presented the Treasurer's Report for February. With no questions or corrections, the motion to approve was made by Al Mattingly, seconded by Kathi Mattas, and the motion carried unanimously. Rodney Ellis then presented a Fiscal Year 2024/25 Budget Amendment. Al Mattingly raised a question about the building debt, and Rodney Ellis explained there would be a substantial penalty if prepayment was made. With no further discussion, Kathi Mattas made the motion to approve the Budget Amendment as presented, Al Mattingly seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Erin Waller presented the Director's Report, including:

1. Hafer Architects plans to be at the April board meeting with a presentation of the proposed remodeling plans.
2. Due to the recent hailstorm, there is damage to the library's vehicles, outdoor garden instruments, and the windows and roofs of the library's two rental houses. Coverage is through E.M. Ford, and the library is waiting for the insurance adjusters to assess the damage.
3. Two informational hand-outs – a) a copy of Kentucky SB 71 relating to public library district board of trustees, and b) "The Impact of LSTA Funds in Kentucky."
4. Recognition of Mary Dean Hale as an Owensboro Legacy Award winner for having started the library in our community in the early 1900's. The posthumous award was accepted by her great-granddaughter Marilyn Swinford.

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

Mr. Rodney Ellis called for Public Comment. There were about 20 people in attendance, with four signed "yes" to speak to the Board, and one "unsure."

Trey Matthews expressed much appreciation for the many programs and resources offered by the library. He stated that he represents parents who just want the library to be a safe place for their children from the increase of trans-identifying materials made available and accessible to them.

Abby Matthews told of her family's enjoyment of the winter and summer reading programs and suggested adding such during the fall and spring semesters of the schoolyear as well.

Jimmy Kamuf asked if there was a more detailed meeting agenda available than that provided to the public. Rodney Ellis responded that there was only the one agenda, and it was the same as what the board was provided with as well.

Robin Scott read excerpts from Jack of Hearts from the YA collection, involving a character under 18, the encouragement of child pornography, and the subjects of sexual abuse and perversion. She expressed concern that this book was exhibited and accessible for minors, in violation of KRS-531.

Commissioner Janie Marksberry said that people have expressed concerns on both sides of the issue for nearly two years, and that no one has suggested banning or removing books. She asked if children and youth books with explicit sexual material could be moved to a new, separate section, readily available to parents who want those books for their own children, while also protecting other children from accidentally stumbling across such. She stated that relocating the books seemed "a pretty no-nonsense, common sense approach that should not be controversial" and noted that just as R-rated movies require minors to have parent/guardian accompaniment, so should books with similar content not be accessible without a parent. There is a need to look for a solution; it is time something was done.

With no further business, Rodney Ellis adjourned the meeting at 5:18 pm.

The next meeting of the Daviess County Public Library Board of Trustees will be held at 5:00pm on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, in the second floor public lounge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney Ellis".