

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

April 16, 2025

Members Present: Susan Montalvo-Gesser, President
Kathi Mattas, Secretary
Kevin Dorth
Al Mattingly

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

Absent: Rodney Ellis, Treasurer
Comm. Janie Marksberry, Fiscal Court Liaison

The meeting was held in the 2nd floor public lounge and was called to order by Susan Montalvo-Gesser at 5:05 p.m.

Mrs. Montalvo-Gesser called for approval of the March 2025 minutes. The motion to approve was made by Al Mattingly, seconded by Kevin Dorth, and the motion carried unanimously.

In Rodney Ellis's absence, Debbie Young presented the Treasurer's Report. With no questions or corrections, the motion to approve was made by Kathi Mattas, seconded by Al Mattingly, and the motion carried unanimously.

Erin Waller presented the Director's Report, including:

1. DCPL is awaiting the insurance adjuster's report on the hailstorm damage.
2. The notary service and computer lab have been very busy due to the recent storms, flooding, etc.
3. Recognition of KDLA representative Amber Potts presence at this meeting for a visit.

There was no Old Business.

New Business.

1. Hafer Architects Library Remodel Presentation by Clay Ellerbrook:

Finalizing the initial schematic design includes enclosing the 2nd floor end space for a large multi-purpose meeting room with movable partitions that allow for multiple smaller spaces. The existing public meeting room will be enclosed for storage. On the first floor, the design is enclosure of the northeast corner space for a small presentation room. The next step would be for the plan to go to a public bidding process, then the board will open the sealed bids to vote on which one to accept.

2. Hail Damage to the Library Vehicles Report by Debbie Young and Erin Waller:

The 2025 Honda Pilot will hopefully be repaired, but the 2016 Honda HR-V has been totaled out for \$15,730. Outreach staff would like to replace it with another Honda HR-V. A new one has been priced at \$27,000. Al Mattingly motioned to approve, but not to exceed, up to \$15,000 towards the vehicle replacement cost. Kevin Dorth seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Susan Montalvo-Gesser called for Public Comment. There were about 28 people in attendance, with six signed "yes" to speak to the Board and two not clearly indicated.

David Eades expressed gratitude for the library and challenged the board to make “adjustments” to book placement policies regarding inappropriate material “made available” and “prominently displayed” in the youth department. He pleaded with library management to make “carefully thought through choices” about the materials for children.

Brian Blair stated that the Bible is living and eternal, referenced verses from Romans and Galatians, and decried the presence of library materials for children and youth about “trans chemical and surgical mutilation.”

Abigail Matthews had previously requested the children’s book *The Girl Guide*, due to explicit genitalia illustrations and a link to a book about a one-night stand, be moved to a different area such as “sex education.” For this she has been verbally attacked, but has also seen many express support that the book was pulled to be “fixed.” She spoke about *Gender Queer*, including an explicit, illustrated sex-act scene (presented printouts to the board), and asked that it be moved to the adult section. Books filled with “cursing, sexual fantasy, etc.” are desensitizing youth, not benefiting them. Erin Waller clarified that *Gender Queer* is an Adult Graphic Novel. Mrs. Matthews stated seeing it on display by the YA room, and Board member Kathi Mattas also noted having seen that title on display just outside the YA room.

Trey Matthews encouraged the library on someone’s previous suggestion of developing a CAD space, and he expressed thanks for the family library passes to the downtown museum. He questioned the standards used for children’s books and stated that we should promote what is good and healthy to children, and not have what is inappropriate within their reach.

J. Kevin Whear said that the “DEI crowd” hates God’s created family hierarchy and targets children through books at the library that promote moral corruption. He asked the board to not be passive, but rather protect children from these attempts to corrupt them.

Robin Scott saw *The Handmaid’s Tale* on display at a small child’s eye level. As she picked up the book, it opened to a rape scene of a restrained woman (printouts of the scene were presented). This Adult Graphic Novel violates KRS 531.030 regarding “distribution” of obscene matter to minors by “exhibiting” such where children could readily access it. She asked the board to create policy for the library to keep sexually explicit material away from children and not shelved or displayed where they could easily encounter or access it.

Susan Montalvo-Gesser asked two individuals, who had not clearly indicated “yes, no, or maybe” on the sign-up sheet, if either wished to speak, and both declined.

Board member Al Mattingly spoke in response to questions raised at previous meetings about when the board will respond to these various book issues and concerns being repeatedly brought forth during public comment. He indicated that it was basically unnecessary for folks to continue bringing these matters and questions forth, because the board does not have all of the information and would not respond.

Kathi Mattas asked, if not at board meetings, when does the board address the community’s questions, concerns, and issues regarding library policy? She said that Public Comment is for community members to speak to the board and, therefore, the board has a responsibility to address these things.

Susan Montalvo-Gesser referenced the list of 287 books put forth for RFR's two years prior, the creation of the restricted access card, and that people should follow the RFR policy. She compared the public's discussion of these books at board meetings to tainting a legal case before it comes before a judge.

Kathi Mattas stated that it is not a legal case to bring these concerns and issues about sexually explicit books to the library board, as the board is not a judge and jury in a courtroom.

Erin Waller stated that these issues potentially "could become" a legal case, involving taxpayer money. She referenced her Master's degree in library science, noting that she uses her education to make her decisions, and stated that the RFR process works.

After a little more board discussion regarding public comment, with no further business, Al Mattingly made the motion to adjourn at about 5:52, and Susan Montalvo-Gesser adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting of the Daviess County Public Library Board of Trustees will be held at 5:00pm on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, in the second floor public lounge.

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