

MINUTES OF THE DAVIESS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MONTHLY MEETING
September 17, 2025

Members Present: Susan Montalvo-Gesser, President
Rodney Ellis, Treasurer (via FaceTime)
Kathi Mattas, Secretary
Kevin Dorth
Al Mattingly

Others Present: Erin Waller, Director
Savannah Warren-Lee, Kentucky Room Manager
Commissioner Janie Marksberry, Fiscal Court Liaison

At 5:01 pm, President Montalvo-Gesser called the meeting to order in the 2nd floor public lounge.

President Montalvo-Gesser called for approval of the corrected July minutes. Al Mattingly made the motion to approve, Kevin Dorth seconded, and the motion carried. President Montalvo-Gesser called for approval of the August minutes. Kevin Dorth made the motion to approve, Al Mattingly seconded, and the motion carried.

On behalf of Rodney Ellis, Erin Waller presented the Treasurer's Report. Rodney Ellis made the motion to approve, Kathi Mattas seconded, and the motion carried.

Erin Waller gave the Director's Report, including:

1. DCPL now has a new digital service "Kanopy," available for use through a patron's library card.
2. 14 names were submitted to KDLA for the open board position, and KDLA has until September 22 to submit their recommendations to the Judge Executive.
3. The remodeling construction work will begin near the end of October.
4. Due to the construction work on the second floor, the November and December board meetings will need to move to a different location.
5. The switch is complete of moving Adult Fiction materials downstairs and Adult Non-Fiction upstairs.
6. DCPL staff had a meeting with the Science and History Museum to go through their collections.

Savannah Warren-Lee, Kentucky Room Manager, explained:

1. Recently they helped the Science and History Museum digitize and organize their collections.
2. They worked with the Museum on "Voices of Elmwood," helping with the candidate selection, research, and script writing for this annual event.
3. Also, they have been helping The Hub, the former architecture firm of Johnson, Depp, and Quisenberry, to organize and digitize their records.

There was no Old Business to address.

New Business listed "Discussion of Filming Policy," but noting the By-Laws guidelines regarding the time-frame the request was made by a patron, it was determined that discussion should be tabled until the next Board meeting. Al Mattingly made the motion, Kevin Dorth seconded, and the motion carried.

Public Comment – Susan Montalvo-Gesser called for public comment, reminding all of the two-minute time limit each. There were approximately 60 in attendance, with about 45 in the room and 15 standing outside the door.

Brian Blair quoted a Bible verse and said that he has attended many board meetings, noting that some board members support inappropriate material for children, "fighting for these abominations." He spoke of books exposing children to such things as a boy who said he had a girl's brain, homosexual sex acts, cross-dressing, trans-surgery, etc., and finished with asking the board what they are fighting for.

Mike Hamlet referenced KRS statutes about obscenity and porn, then referenced subjective vs. objective truths, and that confusing our children contributes to mental health issues. Making children "see the world through the eyes of adults is not good or healthy." Books need to be in age-appropriate sections to protect our children.

Robin Scott issued a plea, as DCPL is a "taxing entity," for recording Board meetings for an accurate public record, especially in light of false information spread such as remarks made at the Aug. 21 Fiscal Court meeting by one of the county commissioners, who had apparently been given misinformation.

Andy Gamblin, 21-year school bus monitor, expressed concern for children, stating that books with obscenity or child pornography need to be moved to the Adult section. He noted that Jesus' powerful warning against those who cause little ones to stumble, which applies to all who support keeping such books in the DCPL children's sections.

Jerry Chapman noted one issue all agree with is that children's literary choices belong to parents. He announced that DCC4D has developed an app for parents' phones to scan any books' ISBN, that would link to reviews of books for which reviews are available, to arm parents to protect their children.

Trey Matthews asked about what kind of books are good for children, then spoke of the high rates of suicide and murder from the trans movement, listing several examples including the recent murder of Charlie Kirk. He noted DCPL's inconsistency of refusing to move inappropriate books but "modifying" one by covering up the bar code (that led to another inappropriate book). He spoke of the hate directed toward him for expressing his views, and welcomed those who disagree to engage in conversation about the issues. He ended with Psalm 120:7. "I am for peace: but when I speak, they are for war."

Jim Riney said that the Daviess County Library is not a church, and while he appreciates others' opinions, "That is all they are."

Abigail Matthews stated that her family had "the most wonderful experience" today at the DCPL

homeschool activity with librarian Sarah Howard, who “does a wonderful job.” She would like to see more good things like this offered at the library.

Christine Young thanked the board for serving, then asked if the public could see the financials. (It was explained that those are available for public viewing on the DCPL Documents page on the website.)

Lindsey Thomas said that she comes to DCPL all the time with her children and has turned in many RFR’s, which have been denied. She asked the board to please change the guidelines, noting that that sexual content should not be shelved for those under age 15.

Kevin Whear said that the board has heard many pleas to not provide inappropriate content to children. He stated that those “desperate to eradicate their God-given image” have an 8x higher suicide rate, that Charlie Kirk was shot by such a “broken man,” and that we should protect children from sexual corruption and evil.

From those seated in the room, another patron requested to come up and speak, but was reminded that she needed to have signed in to do so and could take that opportunity at the next board meeting. It was noted that one exception had been made on a previous occasion for a patron who was completely unaware of the sign-up sheet and had not seen it on their way into the meeting.

Commissioner Janie Marksberry expressed concern regarding the sexually explicit content in the children and teen sections. She noted that all of us are “a little broken,” asked folks to search their own hearts, and said she was unable to grasp the coldness of those celebrating Charlie Kirk’s murder.

Public Comment was followed with:

1. Erin Waller, DCPL Director, announced that this Saturday the Library was hosting a Trivia Night fundraiser event at \$50 per team.
2. Al Mattingly suggested making the financial reports available to patrons as a “pay per form” and consider making printed copies of the meeting minutes available as well.
3. Susan Montalvo-Gesser noted that DCPL has an “Ask a Librarian” service to help patrons.

President Montalvo-Gesser adjourned the meeting at 5:36 pm.

The next meeting of the Daviess County Public Library Board of Trustees will be held at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, in the second floor public lounge.

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