

MISSOURI RIVER REGIONAL LIBRARY

Board Meeting

213 Adams Street, Grimshaw Room

November 21, 2023

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The regular Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Stacy Fick.

1. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Members present: President Stacy Fick, Treasurer John Gulick, Secretary Anne Rottmann and members: Jeff Briggs, Ithaca Bryant, Jessica Davis, Kay Kasiske, Rodney Mulvania, Steve Nelson, and Bob Priddy

Member(s) absent: Kaye Bertels, Becky Layton, Anita Randolph and Anne Steele

Also present: Claudia Young, Library Director; Natalie Newville, Assistant Director of Marketing and Development; Angie Bayne, Assistant Director of Public Services; Debra Winter, Business Manager/Accountant; and Robin Coffman, Administrative Assistant

As this is the last MRRL Board of Trustees meeting that Natalie Newville will attend, President Fick presented Natalie with a plaque to convey the Board's appreciation for her hard work on raising the library's visibility, garnering relationships within the community, and the excellent messaging concerning the past tax levy initiative. At this same time, Jennifer Schroeder and Lesley Bickel, the MRRL Foundation's president and vice president, also presented Natalie with a going away gift.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jeff Briggs made a motion, seconded by Ithaca Bryant, to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2023 meeting. Motion carried. (It is noted that Steve Nelson abstained as he was not present for the October 17, 2023 meeting.)

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL OF MONTHLY EXPENDITURES

John Gulick and Debra Winter, Accountant, reviewed the monthly financial report (Attachments A & B) with the Board. John Gulick made a motion, seconded by Jeff Briggs, to approve the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Expenditures. Motion carried.

5. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Claudia Young reported that it has been a rough month for library staff. First, Qhyrrae Michaelieu, the Adult Services Manager, passed away and staff are working through their grief. Second, Natalie Newville, Assistant Director of Marketing and Development, has accepted a position in another city and this is her last meeting with the MRRL Board of

Trustees. Claudia complimented Natalie on the multiple ways she has supported and represented the library throughout her tenure.

Claudia mentioned that several staff attended the Missouri Library Association's Annual Conference which was held in Columbia this year; even the Bookmobile was sent as an exhibit for others to view. Claudia also reported that Diane Clingman did a great job with the October 10th Staff Day.

Claudia shared that she and staff conducted three post-election Proposition Library (Prop L) listening sessions to better understand why the tax levy ballot initiative failed. She thanked Board members who were able to attend and discuss issues directly with community members. (See more under Unfinished Business, Item A(2), Recap of Proposition Library Post-Election Listening Sessions.)

Claudia also shared that the library had received an open records (Sunshine Law) request pertaining to staff and Board communications regarding Prop L.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Capital Facilities Committee (Anita Randolph)

Anne Rottmann reported, on behalf of Anita Randolph, that the Capital Facilities Committee held a brief meeting prior to the Board meeting and that the Committee recommends approval of the quote from Stokes Electric Company for repair, replacement and/or updating of the main library building's electrical wiring and panels. Only one other quote was received, that from Kaiser Electric; however, that quote was more expensive.

B. Executive Committee (Stacy Fick) No Report

C. Finance Committee (John Gulick) No Report

D. Foundation Liaison (Kaye Bertels)

Natalie Newville reported that the Foundation's Annual Appeal letters have gone out, and due to the response, it appears that late October is a better time for the dissemination of the letter. The goal is \$50,000 and, currently, \$44,000 has been raised. Hitachi indicated it would match the first \$2,000 raised.

E. Marketing/Communications Committee (Jeff Briggs)

Jeff Briggs reported the Marketing/Communications Committee met earlier in the evening. Discussion focused on the need for the MRRL Board of Trustees to develop a new comprehensive (strategic) plan with updated goals, objectives and action steps. The last comprehensive plan was developed seven (7) years ago and, subsequently, rolled into the proposed tax levy election playbook. A newer comprehensive plan will guide marketing strategies and actions. The Committee recommends the MRRL Board revisit and update its current comprehensive plan to provide direction to library staff.

F. Planning Committee (Ithaca Bryant) No Report

G. Bylaws Committee (Stacy Fick) No Report

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Planning for the Future

1. Electrical Wiring and Panels

John Gulick made a motion, seconded by Jessica Davis, to direct staff to move forward on the quote from Stokes Electric (approximately \$21,000 for parts/equipment plus \$10,000 for labor) for the repair, replacement and/or updating of the main library building's electrical wiring and panels. Motion carried.

2. Recap of Proposition Library Post-Election Listening Sessions

Claudia reported that she and Board members conducted three (3) post-election listening sessions in October. One session was held in the morning, another in the afternoon, and one in the evening. The sessions were conducted to allow members of the community to provide feedback on what they perceived were positive and negative aspects of the proposed expansion and the unsuccessful ballot initiative. Attachment D of the Board packet summarized identified barriers, suggestions regarding improvement for the election campaign, and other suggestions/comments/questions discussed during these sessions.

In every listening session, the following points were raised by attendees as impacting the outcome of the election:

- Needed a sunset clause
- Should have sought more community involvement in the expansion and/or building redesign
- Should have created a "yes" committee to assist and support accurate information and to combat misinformation
- Needed to include how to address additional parking for the facility

Discussion included the need to continually look for opportunities that may arise over the next couple of years and to keep an open mind regarding different scenarios that support expansion possibilities, within the current facility or elsewhere.

B. Nominating Committee for 2024 Officers

Stacy Fick reported that the Nominating Committee had previously met, and that the Committee proposes the following slate of officers for the Missouri River Regional Library Board of Trustees for the 2024 calendar year:

President - Bob Priddy
Vice President - Steve Nelson
Secretary - Jessica Davis
Treasurer - Kay Kasiske

Election of officers will be held during the December meeting. Additional nominations from the floor can be made at that time.

8. NEW BUSINESS

No new business; however, the following announcements were made: (1) Stacy Fick announced that she will be stepping away from the MRRL Board of Trustees, effective December 31, 2023; and (2) the library Christmas Party is scheduled for December 15, 2023 in the library's Art Gallery, and all Board members are invited to attend.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Meeting minutes approved December 19, 2023.