

Minutes of Trails Regional Library Board of Trustees Meeting June 21, 2023

1. Call to Order

Trails Regional Library Board met on June 21, 2023, at the Holden branch and was live streamed for the public. President Scotty Walker called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Board members attending in person: Carlin Dillon, Bekki Currier, Goldie Edwards, Patty Long, Jane Beal, Scotty Walker, Ron McMullin, Judy Tyler, and Judy Wolter. Attending via GoTo meeting was Sandy Henke. On duty staff attending: Jackie Hawes, Director, Roger Dumas, and Teresa Opoien. Guests attending: Jae Steinkuhler (off duty staff), Jacquie West, Linda Chamberlin, Brenda Hilton, Joanie Brank, Donna Chaney, Jeannae Dickerson, Dan Brigman, Katy Barrett, Kim Holger, Michelle Smith, Paula Walker, Eva Norton, Charles Norton, Amy Castro, Mellyah Venerable, Kaycee Clements, Sharol McMullin, Diane Thompson, Barb Rhodes, Linda Norcross, Heather Wirsing, Eric Stevens, Julie Getz, and Martine Gann.

3. Public Comments

Teresa Opoien, Holden Branch Manager, welcomed everyone to the Holden Branch. She stated that the Holden staff is in the middle of the Summer Reading Program. She has been with Trails for 3 ½ years and the Branch Manager for 1 ½ years.

President Walker then called on those members of the public who wished to speak. Donna Chaney expressed her pride of the library and of being happy to be from Holden. Members of the whole community had worked tirelessly to get the facility built.

Jeannae Dickerson stated that she was proud of Scotty Walker and talked of the old 900 sq. ft. building which had previously housed Holden's library. She reported that Mr. Walker had come up with the idea of building this new facility.

Michelle Smith, a representative of Compass Health, related some of the issues the homeless population in Warrensburg face. Compass provides services to them and 40% of them are on the housing list. She stated the homeless are not outcasts and that she would like to be included in any discussions in the future.

Kaycee Clements, Associate Director of Survival House, helps displaced persons and also wants to be involved in any discussions.

Heather Wirsing described herself as an activist in Warrensburg. She said the homeless want to visit the Warrensburg Branch and stated that libraries are for everyone.

Jacquie West, who runs Refuge on Ming, a homeless shelter, wants to defend this population. She stated that displaced people are not *bad* people. She also wants to be involved in any conversations to help figure out a solution.

4. Consent Agenda

- a. **Minutes:** Carlin Dillon made a motion, with second by Judy Wolter, to accept the May minutes as recorded. Voice roll call vote taken and minutes were unanimously approved.
- b. **Financial Report – General Fund:** Motion made by Judy Tyler, with second by Patty Long, to accept financial report – general fund. Voice roll call vote taken with unanimous approval.
- c. **Financial Report – Designated Gifts:** Sandy Henke asked if Director Hawes had made any progress on reaching out to banks to obtain better interest rates on money deposited in this account. Director Hawes explained that she had reached out to our attorney and will work with him to determine any stipulations that might have been placed on the funds. Also, as she related to us at our May meeting, she is currently in the process of finalizing the FY24 budget, and will check with different financial institutions as soon as she possibly can. This issue was voted on at our May meeting and the motion that was approved gave Director Hawes the time to check into interest rates when her work load is not so heavy.

Sandy Henke made a motion tasking Director Hawes with immediately moving money in designated gifts into CD's within the current bank where it is invested in order to obtain better paying interest rates than it is currently earning. Motion was seconded by Scotty Walker. Roll call vote was taken with the following results: Judy Wolter – No; Carlin Dillon – No; Bekki Currier – No; Goldie Edwards – No; Patty Long – No; Jane Beal – No; Ron McMullin – Aye; Judy Tyler – No; Sandy Henke – Aye; and Scotty Walker – Aye. Motion defeated by a vote of 3 Ayes and 7 Nos.

- d. **Financial Report – Approval of Invoices & Checks:** Sandy Henke asked why we had paid the Boy Scouts \$50 again, explaining that we had recently done so, and asking what service they provided. Director Hawes explained that they put up and remove flags for us on the appropriate occasions and that they do this at 2 or 3 different branches, which involves more than one Troop. Ms Henke also inquired about the check to ODP. Director Hawes explained that this expenditure was for office supplies. Carlin Dillon then made a motion to approve the financial report – approval of invoices & checks, with second by Jane Beal. Voice roll call vote was taken and approval was unanimous.

5. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

6. New Business

a. Eva Norton – Concerns regarding the Warrensburg Branch

Eva Norton of Warrensburg voiced her concern over bringing her children to the Warrensburg branch. She stated that this is a problem in the community which needs to be fixed. She handed out copies to board members of comments made on Facebook by parents who are no longer taking their children to the library because of the behaviors exhibited by homeless people who are occupying the facility. The Warrensburg branch staff is not trained in dealing with mental health issues but do the best they can to deal with problems that arise. Ms Norton stated that the state of Colorado had closed three libraries due to meth contamination. She does not want something like that to occur here in Warrensburg.

Jane Beal stated that she had been a board member for 1 ½ years and that at every board meeting it is discussed how to deal with this problem. Trails does not have the funds to pay for professional help and asked why people think that the library has to solve all the problems.

Goldie Edwards stated that the Warrensburg city council has had meetings about the homeless situation and that the police department has been meeting with various groups about the issue also.

President Walker suggested that everyone should contact their State senator and representatives about the problems. One of our representatives had made the comment that the Warrensburg branch looked like a homeless shelter.

Judy Wolter asked the dates of the Facebook posts which did not have that information included. Were some made after the improvements recently made?

Everyone agrees there is a problem and the city, the library, and volunteers need to meet to help solve it. Someone commented that the library has done way more than necessary.

b. Consider alternate date for August 2023 meeting

Director Hawes stated that she had not taken into consideration having the tax levy information early enough for the August meeting scheduled for August 16, and asked that the Board meeting be moved to August 23, 2023. Motion made by Patty Long, with second by Goldie Edwards, to move the Board meeting date to August 23, 2023. Voice vote taken with unanimous approval.

c. Consider approval to close out the Central Missouri Community Credit Union account

Sandy Henke moved to close out the Central Missouri Community Credit Union account with second by Goldie Edwards. Voice vote taken with unanimous approval.

d. Consider recommending reappointment of Jane Beal to the TRL Board of Trustees

Motion made by Judy Tyler, with second by Bekki Currier, to recommend the reappointment of Jane Beal (1st term – Lafayette Co) to the TRL Board of Trustees. Voice vote taken with unanimous approval.

e. Consider TRL Board of Trustees applicants to recommend appointments to the upcoming vacant Johnson & Lafayette County seats

There are 11 applicants for 2 Johnson County seats and 3 applicants for 1 Lafayette County seat on the Board of Trustees. Discussion ensued over the need to interview these applicants as soon as possible in order to approve their recommendation to the county commissioners. President Walker questioned the eligibility of an applicant as she does not reside in the Trails library district. It was brought up that she does own property within the district, pays library taxes on said property, and is a resident of Lafayette County. Director Hawes will consult with our the MO State Library and/or legal counsel regarding this issue. More discussion followed about candidates previously

interviewed in March. Director Hawes stated that she will be out of the office next week and be back in the office on July 5, 2023, so will not be able to attend an interview meeting. The Assistant Director, Susan Kromrie, if available, could stand in for her, and if not, Director Hawes could possibly join the meeting via Zoom.

Goldie Edwards made a motion to hold a special meeting to interview Board of Trustee applicants on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at the Warrensburg branch, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Ten minutes will be allotted for interviewing each applicant. Sandy Henke seconded the motion and voice roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

f. Election of Officers for FY 2024

Nominations for President were as follows: Sandy Henke, Patty Long, Carlin Dillon, and Goldie Edwards, who declined. Voting was as follows: Judy Wolter – Sandy Henke; Carlin Dillon – Carlin Dillon; Bekki Currier – Patty Long; Goldie Edwards – Patty Long; Patty Long – Carlin Dillon; Jane Beal – Patty Long; Ron McMullin – Carlin Dillon; Judy Tyler – Patty Long; Scotty Walker – Carlin Dillon; and Sandy Henke – Sandy Henke. Due to 2 persons receiving a tie a second vote was taken with results as follows: Judy Wolter – Patty Long; Carlin Dillon – Carlin Dillon; Bekki Currier – Patty Long; Goldie Edwards – Patty Long; Patty Long – Patty Long; Jane Beal – Patty Long; Ron McMullin – Carlin Dillon; Judy Tyler – Patty Long; Scotty Walker – Carlin Dillon; and Sandy Henke – Carlin Dillon. Patty Long was elected as the FY24 President of the Board of Trustees.

Nomination for Vice-president was Carlin Dillon who was elected by acclamation and is the FY24 Vice-president of the Board of Trustees.

Nominations for Treasurer were as follows: Sandy Henke and Jane Beal. Voting was as follows: Judy Wolter – Jane Beal; Carlin Dillon – Jane Beal; Bekki Currier – Jane Beal; Goldie Edwards – Sandy Henke; Patty Long – Jane Beal; Judy Tyler – Jane Beal – Jane Beal; Ron McMullin – Sandy Henke; and Scotty Walker – Sandy Henke. Serving as the FY24 Treasurer of the Board of Trustees is Jane Beal.

Nomination for Secretary was Bekki Currier who was elected by acclamation and will serve as the FY24 Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

g. Consider approval of new Board Officers on bank account as check signers

Motion made by Carlin Dillon, with second by Jane Beal, to remove outgoing Board officers (Scotty Walker, Ron McMullin, Judy Wolter, and Judy Tyler) as check signers at UMB and replace with the new FY24 Board officers (Patty Long, Carlin Dillon, Jane Beal, and Bekki Currier). Director Jackie Hawes will remain on the accounts as a signer. Voice roll call vote was taken and motion was approved 9 to 0.

h. Consider approval of the FY2024 preliminary budget

Director Hawes stated the preliminary budget presented has been given a few adjustments. Revenue has been increased by \$233,990; removal of \$45,500 transferred from developmental reserves, and addition of \$188,500 to miscellaneous capital projects. Judy Wolter stated that she would like to see signs posted in each community

with a Trails Library branch indicating its location. Director Hawes explained that we must work with each community to have such signs erected.

Carlin Dillon questioned the amount budgeted for furniture & equipment. Director Hawes stated that \$18,000 was for items requested by the branches and approved by Trails Foundation. This money will come out of our budget, and we will be reimbursed by the Foundation. Most of the requested items are for the Warrensburg branch. Ms. Dillon then asked if appliances are included in this line item and requested that a small (not dorm size) refrigerator be purchased for the Holden branch. Roger Dumas explained that currently there is not enough room in the break area for a large one and that there are currently electrical issues resulting in no plug-in close enough to install one. There is a project to be done in FY24 to address this, and it should be resolved. Bekki Currier stated that she has an unused refrigerator in her basement which she will donate to the Holden branch if the dimensions are compatible.

Carlin Dillon also inquired about the \$80,000 estimated for the Knob Noster branch parking lot. This is included in the amount budgeted in capital expense, along with resurfacing the Concordia branch parking lot, diverting rainwater from the garage area of the annex at the Warrensburg branch, and the purchase of a new courier van and outfitting it, if the need arises.

Goldie Edwards made a motion to approve the preliminary budget as presented, with second by Bekki Currier. Roll call vote taken with the following results: Judy Wolter – Aye; Carlin Dillon – Aye; Bekki Currier – Aye; Goldie Edwards – Aye; Patty Long – Aye; Jane Beal – Aye; Ron McMullin – Aye; Judy Tyler – Aye; and Scotty Walker – Aye. Motion passed by a vote of 9 Ayes and 0 Nos.

i. Discussion on the Holden Branch Lease

President Walker gave a short presentation of the Holden branch and how it came to be. The current building was funded entirely by donations from the community and is to be used specifically as a library and not as any other public building. It began as its own entity but the community knew they could not completely fund the library on their own and so they joined Trails Regional Library. An attorney was consulted and a 20-year lease was drawn up, which automatically renews every 20 years for a total of 100 years, and the lease is due for renewal this year. It is very important that both parties renew.

7. Announcements

There were no announcements.

8. Adjournment

President Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Board Officer

Date of Approval

