

MASCOUTAH PUBLIC LIBRARY
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MAY 20, 2025

The Board of Trustees of the Mascoutah Public Library (MPL) held its regular meeting at the library on May 20, 2025 at 6:15 pm CT. Meeting called to order at 6:16 pm.

Trustees present were Scot Erickson, Frank Bandre, Suzy Friederich, Wayne Wilhelm, Jordan Rehfeltd, Kay Connolly, and Casey Hoercher; absent were Nancy Larson and Merly Friedland. Also present was Library Director Joel Pikora.

Vice President Scot Erickson presided and Wayne Wilhelm recorded the minutes.

Scot administered the Oath of Office to new member, Casey Hoercher. All trustees welcomed her to the MPL board.

Additions to Agenda – None.

Public Comments – None.

Minutes The minutes of the last Board meeting on March 18, 2025 were unavailable.

Financial Report Frank presented the Balance Sheet as of April 30, 2025, the statements of Profit & Loss for the months of March 2025 & April 2025 and the fiscal year from May 2024 to April 2025. Frank reported on the financial condition of the MPL and result of operations for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2025. The following summarizes the actual and budgeted income and expenses. See financial report for more details.

Frank mentioned the large maintenance expenses in FY 24-25 which caused a \$45,000 deficit. Thankfully, the MPL received \$36,000+ from the Veterans Property Tax Relief (VPTR). This offset the majority of unexpected expenses. Joel was able to adjust accordingly. Going forward, VPTR may be available for FY 25-26 and FY 26-27. Lastly, IMLS grant funding remains in limbo until late 2025.

The Board unanimously approved the above financial statements and ordered that the same be filed for audit. (*Motion by Suzy, second by Jordan*)

Committee Report None

Director's Report Please refer to the Director's written report for the May 2025 Board Meeting relating to operations and activities since the last meeting, the comparative Library Circulation for March/April 2024 versus March/April 2025, Non-Resident Registrations and Library Programming Report covering the last two months.

The library has been very busy in March and April, engaging in various activities including Story Time, Community Movie, Art Show, and school year-end class visits.

MPL received reimbursement check for quarterly PNG grant. It took about three weeks after submittal, this was much faster than prior reimbursements.

Joel covered recent court decisions pertaining to IMLS. Overall, IMLS remains in a precarious position despite the temporary injunctions.

With the input of social work practicum student, MPL focusing on sensory inclusivity initiative. MPL now has noise canceling headphones and weighted lap blanket for patrons as well as fidgets and other sensory items in the juvenile area. MPL will also pilot a soft hour, 8:00 am-9:00 am on Fridays, to create a less overwhelming environment. Ivy and Olivia were invited to participate in MES PTO sensory night.

MPL is warming up for the summer reading program. The theme is Level Up at Your Library which focuses on board games, role-playing games, and video games. Kickoff set for June 7. The summer programs offer a variety of activities suited for various age groups - young children and their families, adults, teens and many more.

Old Business Teen Room Remodel Update: Simply, Joel provided FGM Architects invoices totaling \$1200.

Display Case Update: Joel stated Martin Glass Company will begin work on May 22, 2025.

Changes to Hoopla Cost Limits: With the increased cost for hoopla, price cap change reviewed by Joel. The three options ranged from price cap of \$2.99 on All Formats, price cap of \$2.84 on only Audiobooks and price cap of \$2.84 on Audiobooks and \$1.99 on eBooks.

After discussion, by unanimous voice vote the Board approved Option #2 - only Audiobooks and monitor expense. (*Motion by Suzy, second by Jordan*)

As recommended by the Personnel Committee at the March 18, 2025 meeting, the Board approved by unanimous vote, the election of Officers and Standing Committees to served during FY2025-26 and until their successors are elected and qualified. (*Motion by Jordan, second by Kay*)

Officers: Nancy Larson, President; Scot Erickson, Vice President; Merly Friedland, Secretary; Frank Bandre, Treasurer.

Building & Grounds: Wayne Wilhelm, Chairman; Members: Suzy Friederich, Scot Erickson and Joel Pikora.

Finance: Frank Bandre, Chairman; Members: Merly Friedland, Casey Hoercher and Joel Pikora.

Policy: Wayne Wilhelm, Chairman; Members: Jordan Rehfeldt, Kay Connolly and Joel Pikora.

Personnel: Nancy Larson, Chairman; Members: Kay Connolly, Scot Erickson and Joel Pikora.

New Business A) By unanimous voice vote, the Board approved the fee of \$1.00 for Notary Service provided by newly appointed Notary Public, Derek Belknap. (*Motion by Scot, second by Suzy*)

By unanimous voice vote, the Board disapproved membership in Better World Books Discards and Donations Program. MPL will continue to operate its Book Sales and possibly seek assistance though MHS groups for service hours to deliver used books to Memorial Hospital.

(*Motion by Kay, second by Suzy*)

Discussion None

Adjournment There being no further business, Vice President Scot declared the meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm. The next Board Meeting will be at MPL on August 19, 2025 at 6:15 pm.


Wayne Wilhelm
Secretary of the Meeting