

MAHOMET PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MARCH 10, 2025, 6:15PM AT THE LIBRARY

Members Present: Kevin Kelsey, Scott Schaumann, Mike Cunningham, Carrie Heimann, Kristen Streeter, Susie Baker, Stevi Stutzman, John Howard

Also Present: Tammy Caputo, Melissa Dailey, Kate Smith, Ashley Elson

Kevin Kelsey opened the meeting by reading the library's mission statement: "Together we create a welcoming community that empowers everyone to learn, connect, create, and grow."

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes for February 10, 2025

Stevi Stutzman moved to approve the minutes for February 10, 2025. Susie Baker seconded. The motion passed unanimously. There was no discussion.

Treasurer's Report

A. Financial Report for February 2025

Stevi Stutzman moved to approve the financial report for February 2025. Susie Baker seconded. Roll call vote; all trustees voted in favor of the motion. There was no discussion.

B. Check Register for February 2025

Stevi Stutzman moved to approve the check register for February 2025. Susie Baker seconded. Roll call vote; all trustees voted in favor of the motion. There was no discussion.

Director's Report for March

John Howard had a discussion with the board on evaluating a new vendor called Ingram for purchasing books since Baker and Taylor has become unreliable.

John Howard informed the board that the critter that was roaming around the grounds of the library had now vanished.

Kevin Kelsey asked about Hoopla. John Howard said that in the month of February, numbers were down 10% compared to January. Next month's bill will be \$58 and then going forward, the bill will be on a month-to-month basis. He said that the expenses will be about \$8,000 over budget. Scott Schaumann asked if this amount was more than we anticipated. John Howard said yes and then talked about the operating budget being balanced. He mentioned that he has funds to cover this expense.

John Howard discussed his findings and progress with overdrive statistics.

John Howard talked about statistics next. He said that digital material circulation is up 14%, program attendance is up 40%, people count is up 8% from last year, and total circulation is up about 2%. John talked about how volunteers' hours are down and will be down for the next several months in comparison to last year. This was due to the genrification project, which included a lot of volunteer hours in 2024. There are not usually that many hours needed on a regular basis, although regular volunteer hours have increased compared to the last few years. Kevin Kelsey asked what the hours are attributed to and John said shelf read, special projects, dusting, pull list, putting books in order on shelving carts, and spine labels. Stevi Stutzman asked if the library does any volunteer appreciation and John said yes. Alyssa Simpson and Linda Bowers are in charge of the whole program.

Carrie Heimann asked about the flickering lights outside. John Howard said that we are waiting for the part that the electrician ordered to come in. Carrie asked if we could simply remove the bulbs for now. Kristin Streeter asked if the electrician had given a timeline for when the parts would come in and John said no. Kevin asked who the electrician was, and John said he could not remember.

Audience Comments

Kate Smith commented that the electrician company is Remco.

Committee Reports - None

Unfinished Business

A. Approval of the Financial Report for January 2025

Stevi Stutzman moved to approve the financial report for January 2025. Susie Baker seconded. Roll call vote; all trustees voted in favor of the motion.

John Howard noted that the general fund that was missing from the Board Packet in February is now included.

New Business

A. Intergovernmental Agreement with Mahomet-Seymour Schools

There was a voice vote to approve the intergovernmental agreement with Mahomet-Seymour schools. The ayes had it.

John Howard stated that the intergovernmental agreement with the school district ended in December 2024. John met with the superintendent in January, and they were both happy with the new proposal for March 2025. This includes continuation of signing students up for library cards and the superintendent is aware that the school is responsible for lost materials on IGA cards. John commented that there are 134 active IGA cards being used currently, therefore he recommended re-up for another five years. Scott Schaumann asked if any of the parameters had changed in the proposal and John said no.

B. Public Survey in Support of 2026-2029 Strategic Plan

John Howard said that he had been working with Tammy on public input. This includes short surveys, longer surveys, focus groups, and round table discussions. Kevin Kelsey asked how many people they are hoping to survey and John said 500 to 1000 in total. Becca Strom is also creating surveys for teens and elementary school students. John then discussed the parameters in which the different surveys will be handed out and their details. Kevin Kelsey suggested that questions 6 and 7 should be added to the short survey. John Howard said that the goal of the short survey is to see why people don't use the library. Kevin Kelsey asked about social media options and John said they are currently using google forms. John Howard mentioned that he had 35 people fill out the short survey at the home and garden show. The board then discussed the verbiage, questions, and predictions on the short survey and was informed that if they want to add anything to send Tammy an email.

C. Discussion of Expansion Plan - Status and Options

John Howard attended a webinar on referendums and said it was excellent. However, the main point he brought to the board is that they need to begin discussing whether they want to pass a referendum that adds additional revenue to the end of the bonds when they stop getting paid, as soon as within two years. With the construction grant on the horizon, there needs to be a plan on how the library is going to proceed if they cannot receive the \$2.5 million from the state. John Howard asked if this discussion needs to start with the building and grounds committee or with the whole board in a study session. The board agreed that this is a topic for everyone to get together for. Kevin Kelsey would like to discuss all the different plans and backup plans before people leave. Tammy Caputo will send out some dates for the discussion. Carrie Heimann commented that there should be some community feedback to take into consideration before this meeting. John Howard said newly elected members will take their oath for their new board positions at the end of the board meeting in May. Mike Cunningham asked if the new members could attend the public forums and workshops, and John said yes. Kevin Kelsey suggested inviting Jim Miller, who is helping to organize a library foundation. Then the board discussed the logistics of the study session.

D. "Everything Mahomet" Discussion of Concept

John Howard proposed to the board to create a Mahomet community website that will let citizens know what is happening in town such as community events, tree limb pickups, school closings, volunteering, etc. There is no other consistent source to obtain this information. John said he wants to hire a journalistic person part time to create and maintain this website. He anticipates that between the township, the school, and the library, everyone can chip in \$10,000 for a total of \$30,000. The board discussed not including advertising or comment sections. That this would purely be an informational source. The board then discussed what the hours would look like for this role and what the pay would be. John Howard expressed that this would continue the vision he has for the library. The board agreed that this will be a continuous discussion.

Strategic Plan Update – None

Board Advocacy

A. Save the Date - "I Spy Summer" event on May 24, 2025

John Howard informed everyone that the annual I Spy Summer event will be on May 24th, 2025 and need a lot of people to help. Stevi Stutzman asked if the walk is still the short one like last year and John said yes.

Trustee Comments

Carrie Heimann said that she is super supportive on continuing to collaborate with the schools.

Kristin Streeter reminded to send a Doodle Poll for the finance meeting.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Illinois Statutes ILCS 120/2(c)(1) in order to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body.

Mike Cunningham moved to closed session. Kristin Streeter seconded; the motion passed.

Adjournment

Mike Cunningham moved to adjourn the meeting. Kristen Streeter seconded; the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Ashley Elson, Library Clerk.