

MAHOMET PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MAY 12, 2025, 6:15PM AT THE LIBRARY

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

Also Present: Tammy Caputo, Melissa Dailey, Kate Smith, Sarah Miller, 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 April 14, 2025

Mike Cunningham moved to approve the minutes for April 14, 2025. Kristen Streeter seconded. The motion passed unanimously. There was no discussion.

Treasurer's Report

A. Financial Report for April 2025

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

B. Check Register for April 2025

Stevi Stutzman moved to approve the check register for April 2025. Scott Schaumann seconded. Roll call vote; all trustees voted in favor of the motion.

Carrie Heimann asked about the two lines for lawn care. John Howard explained that the smaller amount was trimming the trees and bushes.

Kristen Streeter asked if everything had been transferred to the new bank from Busey and John said just about.

Director's Report for April

John Howard started with the statistics. Total circulation went up 13%. This is due to the number of new books that have been added. Kid's wonderbooks and yoto players are very popular. 106 adult surveys have been completed. 15% feel the library is average, 35% feel the library is very good, and 56% feel the library is excellent.

John Howard explained to the board that the library has a new fire alarm system in place that will save money in the long run.

Stevi Stutzman commented that she loved that the library had a table at the bilingual family night.

Mike Cunningham asked for an update on the "everything Mahomet" website. John Howard explained to the board that the village of Mahomet is revamping their existing website "visit Mahomet". They already have things in place that match what the library wanted on their own website. John said that there is ongoing conversation about partnering with Village of Mahomet on their website since there does not need to be two of them. Scott Schaumann asked about backing out completely and John said it would not be ideal because there are a lot of good reasons to do this. Mike Cunningham reiterated his concern on making sure that all hands-on deck for the referendum. John Howard explained that the website would be managed by a different person completely, it would show the community how crucial the library is and how the library helps the community in return.

Audience Comments

Melissa Daily reminded the board that if they want to take advantage of advertising the library's summer events through the school, they will need to do so before the school year is out. She also commented that the board will have to be strategic for the referendum because taxes have been increasing significantly in Mahomet recently.

Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

Kristen Streeter discussed the approval of the 2025-2026 operating budget. Voice vote; all trustees voted to approve.

New Business

A. Discussion of Meeting time for 2025-2026 (Ordinance in June)

John Howard wanted to verify on continuing having the monthly meetings on every second Monday at 6:15pm and the board agreed.

B. Approval of non-resident fee formula for 2025-2026

Mike Cunningham moved to approve the non-resident fee formula for 2025-2026. Stevi Stutzman seconded. Roll call vote; all trustees voted in favor of the motion.

The board had a discussion on the cost of non-resident cards for those who rent.

C. Appointment of two trustees to perform the Secretary's Audit

Mike Cunningham and Susie Baker volunteered to be appointed to perform the secretary's audit.

D. Follow-up on Possible 2026 Referendum for Expansion

John Howard said that Tammy Caputo and himself spoke with a campaign consultant from Every Library Institute. John explained what staff and trustees are allowed and not allowed to do during a referendum. Kevin Kelsey asked if John could forward the email about what happened to Rochester Library to the trustees, have a dos and don'ts list made for everyone, discuss this at every meeting going forward, and he reminded the board about the open meetings act. Stevi Stutzman commented that the dos and don'ts should be in the form of a pocket guide and should include talking points. John Howard said that he will need help by forming a team of 5 to 8 people to work with him that can meet on a regular basis to make this referendum successful.

Strategic Planning – None

Board Advocacy

A. Discussion of Ice Cream Social Sunday, July 13th from 2-4 pm

John Howard told the board that he is working on getting some heated ice cream scoops although they do not seem all that reliable. He will also try some other options, including talking with Jessica Hanson from the Main Scoop and asking for advice.

B. Sign-up to help at I Spy Summer May 24th

John Howard passed around the sign-up sheet to volunteer helping at the I Spy Summer event. He is not sure if all the library shirts will arrive by then, but all the nametags will be accounted for.

Oath of Office for Incoming Trustee

Kevin Kelsey led the new members of the board in swearing their oaths of office..

Trustee Comments

Stevi Stutzman asked if there were meeting notes at the special meeting regarding the backup plan to gain funds for the expansion and John Howard said yes. Stevi also shared with the board an informative book she is reading that could benefit everyone about being a trustee.

Kevin Kelsey read aloud a thank you card regarding the holiday party to the board. Then he talked about his time on the board and how much appreciation he has for it.

Mike Cunningham said encouraged the incoming board members, noting that he had been very nervous when he started, wanting to serve but not being sure what to do, but that he had been inspired by the example of the more experienced board members. He thanked the three outgoing board members for their service and all they had accomplished..

Expression of Appreciation for Outgoing Trustees

John Howard gave a presentation for the outgoing trustees.

Adjournment

Mike Cunningham moved to adjourn the meeting. Scott Schaumann seconded; the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:21pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Ashley Elson, Library Clerk.