

Sainte Genevieve County Library
Open Meeting
Board of Trustees
April 14, 2025

Be it Remembered: A meeting of the Sainte Genevieve County Library Board was called to order by Board President Jean Johnson on Monday, April 14, 2025 beginning at 11:56 a.m. at the Sainte Genevieve County Library located at 21388 Highway 32, Sainte Genevieve, MO 63670.

Roll Call: A quorum was established as Board President Jean Johnson, Secretary Robert Bach, and Member-at-Large Cindy Nugent answered *aye* to a roll call vote. Attending were Library Executive Director Shawn Long, Assistant Director Lindsey Picou and Program Director Missy McElligott.

Approval of Agenda: Cindy Nugent made a motion to approve the agenda. Robert Bach voiced a second. All Board members present voted *aye* in a voice vote and the motion carried.

Public Comment: No member of the public was present.

Approval of Minutes: Cindy Nugent made a motion to approve minutes from the previous meeting. Robert Bach voiced a second. All Board members present voted *aye* in a voice vote and the motion carried.

Financial Report: Executive Director Shawn Long went over the Financial Reports and line items. Robert Bach made a motion to approve the Financial Report. Cindy Nugent voiced a second. All Board members present voted *aye* in a voice vote and the motion carried.

Directors Report: Executive Library Director Shawn Long offered his Directors Report:

Summer Reading: This program will kick-off on May 31st with details regarding how it unfolds in the mix. Several organizations have already donated funds.

Dungeons & Dragons Online Program: This event is suspended due to the passing of the person who had volunteered to oversee the program. Monies have been donated to the library in his name.

Dollar General Summer Reading Grant: The Dollar General Grant was submitted February 3rd and it targets; (1) one year of Novel Effects for All card holders, (2) \$850 in Picture books, and (3) \$500 in giveaways for us to host 3months of Teen Book Boxes. Other monies may be sought should the grant not cover things in their entirety; hoping for positive mid-May news.

T-Mobile Place Making Grant: Director Long indicated he is applying for a \$50,000 grant from T-Mobile for place-making (AKA the porch & step project.) Our Friends of the Library are also working on starting a fundraising campaign for it as well. The county commission has approved this project. Director Long is negotiating with specific entities.

Prop ‘L’: The initiative failed on the April 8th ballot and board discussion undertook an initial dissection regarding cause. Board President Jean Johnson offered her observation of people in conversation saying that they voted against the library ballot initiative because they did not want a library downtown. Other people confessed that they did not have sufficient knowledge of the library initiative to give it an affirmative vote. Many did not look favorably on the library initiative because it was “just another tax” however both the city and county fire district initiatives passed. Director Long stated he sent a request to Ivan Schraeder, the county’s retained attorney, with regards to the fate of that inter-governmental agreement (IGA) that currently forms a needed financial lifeline for library operations. Community conversation also asked why the levy sought appeared lofty rather than moderate, not seeing that a meager increase would flail in the face of the library’s commitment to the community. The experience of this recent initiative will form the foundation for any future event. One crucial ingredient lost was state funding. Current library financial status sits below the threshold required to receive such input. Director Long stated that with the dismemberment of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) at the federal level, aid through the state will diminish or be selective. An example has already presented itself with the summer reading program at a neighboring county Little Dixie Library being canceled. Funds coming from the IMLS are funneled through the state and disbursement is state-controlled. Such control means the library may be required to perform frequent fundraising and seek grant monies in efforts to continue current programs. Of great concern, the current legislative climate portends grants perhaps being available only under austere constraints. Further discussion centered on a varied cost of putting any future initiative on the ballot. It may indeed cost more than the recent event and budgeting for such will require forethought. The commission is flirting with a USE Tax and should that happen next year, any library effort may be closeted for the foreseeable future. Outreach library activity might be a part of future thinking; i.e. St. Mary, Ozora, Zell, Chestnut Ridge.

Meeting Adjournment: There being no further business before the Board, Cindy Nugent made a motion to adjourn. Robert Bach voiced a second. All board members present voted *aye* in a voice vote and the open meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m. Next meeting is Monday, May 12th, 2025 at noon.

Respectfully:

Jean Johnson
Board President
Sainte Genevieve County Library



Robert E. Bach
Board Secretary
Sainte Genevieve County Library