

Sainte Genevieve County Library
Open Meeting
Board of Trustees
July 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, July 14, 2025 beginning at 12:00 noon 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, Vice-President Melissa Otto, Secretary Robert Bach and Member-At-Large Cindy Nugent answered *aye* to a roll call vote. Also attending were Library Executive Director Shawn Long and Assistant Director Lindsey Picou as well as Program Librarian Misty McElligott. Guests in attendance were Commissioners Randy Ruzicka, Mark Marberry and Cory Ford. A Mr. Matt Clark was present representing the YMCA organization currently ingesting the Ste. Genevieve County Community Center, Sports Complex and Water Park.

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

Public Comment: It is here initial discourse unfolded on an intricate puzzle, and where the Library's piece might fit. At the start Commissioner Ruzicka sought to answer two questions he assumed were on the Library's mind by stating resolutely "Your future here is fine, Ok! You have your space. It's going to be business as usual. So, no worries there!"

Matt Clark, District Vice President, YMCA's Gateway Region, discussed their mission and stated that various business models existed and the model implemented was in concert with the perceived needs of the community. Reading and education are a part of their focus and an effort will be made to compliment, or stay removed from, programs already developed and in use by the Library. Commissioner Ruzicka augmented Mr. Clark's opening remarks by stating "One of the most important things is that everybody gets to keep their job."

Commissioner Ruzicka offered historical context which addressed certain foundation funds that must remain untouched. Monies taken in by the water park have made it possible to make some payments against Community Center debts. Board President Jean Johnson and Vice-President Melissa Otto queried the commissioners and Mr. Clark with regards to identifying activities specific to the Library from those specific to the Community Center. Residents have often thought activities presented originated with the Community Center when the actual origin grew out of Library efforts. It is paramount that patrons enjoying a specific event understand that the Library was its creator.

All present received a brief history of the water park by Commissioner Ruzicka wherein concessions given up by the Library were revisited with the intent to give perspective to the Library's current position.

Cindy Nugent, Library Board Member-At-Large, asked the commissioners to give cause to the secrecy surrounding the negotiations that resulted in the YMCA's presence. Commissioner Ruzicka stated that contract negotiations were protected by state statute (*read Sunshine Law; RSMo 610.021(2)(12)*) Commissioner Marberry stated that all such transactions are negotiated in the manner as that which unfolded between the Commission and the YMCA. Further discussion did not give complete closure regards secrecy.

Vice-President Melissa Otto ask to whom shall the Library make its rent payment. Commissioner Ruzicka stated the County remains the recipient because the County retains the property.

Vice-President Otto then asked a question of Mr. Clark specific to a person's ability to pay. Mr. Clark stated that, should a person not be able to pay the complete cost for a program, the YMCA will provide financial assistance. A sliding scale is used against which the ability to pay may be measured. Some people may pay a smaller percentage for a program than others based on that measurement and circumstances present. A annual YMCA campaign helps in providing the aforementioned financial assistance.

The need for space required by specific programs was stressed by Program Manager Misty McElligott. Her dedication to the baking program, and others that fall under her leadership, was apparent in her defense. She provided robust narrative that was easily understood.

Director Long asked the important question of maintenance. Commissioner Ruzicka, in simplistic terms, stated that the YMCA will address inside requirements and the County will address outside requirements. Specific occurrences will be reviewed to determine how a resolution will originate. Director Long asked about the County vehicle. Commissioner Ruzicka stated that, at the moment, the vehicle will remain available for Library use.

The Commissioners and Mr. Clark departed for another meeting after a dialogue just under forty-five minutes.

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:

The Elephant in the Room: See Public Comment(s) section above.

Training: An opportunity exists for Library staff to attend the conferences of the Missouri Library Association (MLA) and the Association of Bookmobiles and Outreach Services (ABOS), both scheduled juxtaposed in St. Louis in October. The Board quickly identified this as a unique opportunity for Library staff to network with other attendees, all of whom are library employees

or administrators of libraries and related services around the region. Director Long outlined several options for attendance. One of the conferences will take event in the Chesterfield area while the other will unfurl in downtown St. Louis. The Board weighed costs versus opportunity with significant discussion before Robert Bach made a motion to allow Director Long, Assistant Director Lindsey Picou and Program Librarian Misty McElligott to attend the appropriate conference that equates to their Library responsibilities. Attendance will be overnight for the duration and will include transportation and meals. All reasonable expenses to be covered by one or more available sources. Cindy Nugent voiced a second. All Board members present voted *aye* in a voice vote and the motion carried.

Jour De Fete: The Library will be present and will have the Chomp Saws that belong to the Friends of the Library. A collection of cardboard will be available for kids to exercise their creativity with the Chomp Saws.

Mini Golf: The success of Mini Golf last summer may result in a reoccurrence somewhere near August twelfth or thirteenth. Better definition may result after consultation with the Friends organization.

Nosferatu at the Orris: Director Long and staff arrived at a potential fundraiser featuring a silent movie masterpiece accompanied by a live soundtrack. The 1922 movie classic *Nosferatu* feature as a potential near-Halloween event. The group that may provide the sound are *The Rats & People Orchestra*. They are a seven-piece band located in St. Louis. Again, the Friends of the Library may need to be instrumental in making this event happen.

Dollar General Summer Reading Grant: The grant process proved successful and will cover one year of Novel Effects for all card holders, \$850 in Picture books, and \$500 in giveaways that will allow the Library to host three months of Teen Book Boxes.

T-Mobile Place Making Grant: Director Long submitted a grant request in June and may have to wait until September to hear of success.

Staffing: Grace Cox is a new hire supporting efforts at the front desk. Welcome Grace! Director Long continues to monitor the Library's staffing needs.

Hoopla: Director Long is working with Libby in an effort to transfer the Hoopla Flex collection to the Libby platform. This may be an effort four-to-five weeks in length. Research for a Hoopla replacement has been somewhat disappointing. Other platforms do not quite measure up to what Hoopla offers. Platforms reviewed were *Blackstone*, *Cloud Library*, and *BorrowBox*. The one that provides promise is *Cloud Library* but does so at a premium price.

Outreach Inspiration: The Little Free Library (LFL) concept discussed briefly at June's meeting is being briefly suspended hoping that attendance at the ABOS Conference in October (see Training above) will cast light on additional possibilities for community outreach.

Meeting Adjournment: There being no further business before the Board, Cindy Nugent made a motion to adjourn. Melissa Otto voiced a second. All board members present voted *aye* in a voice vote and the open meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m. Next meeting is Monday, August 11th, 2025 at noon.

Respectfully:

Jean Johnson
Board President
Sainte Genevieve County Library



Robert E. Bach
Board Secretary
Sainte Genevieve County Library