

Sainte Genevieve County Library
Open Meeting
Board of Trustees
June 9, 2025

Be it Remembered: A meeting of the Sainte Genevieve County Library Board was called to order by Board President Jean Johnson on Monday, June 9, 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, Treasurer Robin Reynolds, 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.

Approval of Agenda: Cindy Nugent made a motion to approve the agenda. Robin Reynolds 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: Robin Reynolds 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. Brief discussion concentrated on areas and programs that may to be abbreviated as a result of the unsuccessful April ballot proposal. Robert Bach made a motion to approve the Financial Report. Robin Reynolds 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:

Hoopla: A failed ‘Prop L’ initiative in April warned of a threshold that might put crosshairs on Hoopla and other library services. Hoopla has been popular with library patrons for a long time but the monies necessary to present Hoopla now weigh heavily on the library’s budget. If Hoopla were to be retained a reduction in the number of Hoopla titles available would be required. A cost reduction per title would reduce the number of titles available. Neither presents an attractive option. Libraries in neighboring counties use a service functionally similar to Hoopla called Blackstone with reasonable success and the costs related to Blackstone fall below those of Hoopla. Constructive board conversation ensued with the options explored in relative terms before Robert Bach made a motion to terminate Hoopla but retain its Flex component. The date of termination would be the first day of July. Cindy Nugent voiced a second. All Board members present voted *aye* in a voice vote and the motion carried.

Staffing: The library is diminished by two staff members. A resignation became effective June 3rd and another employee is out indefinitely with medical issues. A third employee has secured outside employment but has agreed to continue to work the front desk as needed on any Monday or Wednesday. This person will no longer be doing any tech-related patron assistance. Additional people are being sought who can work as needed. One person has been hired and their training process has begun. This person has previously volunteered with the library.

Outreach Prospects: Failing to gain the April ballot initiative necessitates exploring other avenues of public service. Servicing distant county communities, i.e. community outreach, is significant and deserves pursuit. Director Long envisions, potentially, creating box-shaped Little Free Libraries (LFLs) that will house a small collection of books and/or library information, etc. Prospective locations are (a) Chestnut Ridge at the Baptist Church, (b) Coffman (Church @ fork in the road), (c) Kinsey's Firehouse, (d) at the Midway Bar & Grill in New Offenburg, (e) at the Catholic Church in Ozora, (f) some location in Salem, (g) St. Mary's City Hall and, perhaps, Zell's Firehouse. The library logo would appear on each side of the LFL and donated items would fill each location. A basic bookmark would promote the services of the library. Eight of these LFL's would require an expenditure of ~\$3,562.56. The purchase of 4x4's and concrete would be needed to properly secure the LFL into the ground. This will receive further discussion at the July board meeting.

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 will apply for a \$50,000 grant from T-Mobile for Place Making (AKA the porch & step project). Further, the Friends of the Library are looking to commence a fundraising campaign to augment any monies earmarked for the project. It has been noted the commissioners agreed to move forward with the project which will include stairs and a ramp for access to the porch. Outside furniture wants discussion as well as the perceived need for a door to replace one of the windows.

Summer Reading: The program took flight June 7th. Bluey & Bingo made an appearance much to the delight of all present.

Senior Tax Meeting: No changes to our tax rate will be happening until 2027. Overall the commissioners seek legal and/or legislative structure before moving forward.

Meeting Adjournment: There being no further business before the Board, Cindy Nugent made a motion to adjourn. Robin Reynolds voiced a second. All board members present voted *aye* in a voice vote and the open meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m. Next meeting is Monday, July 14th, 2025 at noon.

Respectfully:

Jean Johnson
Board President
Sainte Genevieve County Library



Robert E. Bach
Board Secretary
Sainte Genevieve County Library