

Sainte Genevieve County Library
Open Meeting
Board of Trustees
December 9, 2024

Be it Remembered: A meeting of the Sainte Genevieve County Library Board was called to order by Board President Jean Johnson on Monday, December 9, 2024 beginning at 12:00 p.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, Vice-President Melissa Otto, Secretary Robert Bach, Treasurer Robin Reynolds and Member-at-Large Cindy Nugent answered **aye** to a roll call vote. Attending were Library Executive Director Shawn Long and a representative of the Gibson Center for Behavioral Health in Cape Girardeau.

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.

Open Forum: The representative of the Gibson Center for Behavioral Health briefly discussed a program they are promoting called EPIC (Engaging Patients In Care Coordination). She discussed client eligibility, expectations, and services offered through the program for those clients in need.

Approval of Minutes: Robin Reynolds made a motion to approve minutes from the previous meeting. Cindy Nugent 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. Cindy Nugent made a motion to approve the Financial Report. Melissa Otto 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:

Community Communication: Library Director Shawn Long identified a strategy for seeking success with regards to Prop L. In unity with the board, he will issue a press release to various news platforms the first week of each month through April. Board discussion will preface each release to clarify issues or address any concerns. The January press release will be promulgated on the second day of the new year. Specific media platforms, as well as the Ste. Genevieve Herald, will receive a specific set of information for a given month. The desired effect is a positive recognition by voters of what the successful passage of Prop L will bring to both the library and the county. A brief chronology shows: January, the announcement of Prop L; February, illustrating state support on the ballot; March; the Library Usage Annual Report and an invitation to a Prop L Town Hall meeting hosted by the Library; lastly, an April Pass/Fail Press Release.

State Aid Potential: Envisioning Prop L success, Director Long reached out to Cory Mihalik at the State Library to get clarification as to when state support could resume subsequent to a successful April event. The response might conceivably exhibit the following: **(1)** next April, success and the tax begins shortly thereafter; **(2)** June/July 2026, the earliest period to apply for State Fiscal Year 2027 state aid eligibility; **(3)** August 2026, official certification of State FY 2027 state aid. At such juncture, SGCLIB would be eligible for courier and Evergreen support and can apply for LSTA grants; **(4)** October 2026, State Fiscal Year 2027 Q1/Q2 payments received; **(5)** May 2027, State Fiscal Year 2027 Q3/Q4 payments received; **(6)** June/July 2027, Recertify for State Fiscal Year 2028 eligibility; other events may follow. Success will be assisted by emphasizing any effects to the library public if State Aid is lost, etc.

Prior Employee News: Recent information tells of a former employee, John Jones, who is about retire from the Ozark Regional Library at the end of this year. For those who knew John or was around during the Ozark Regional oversight, he ran the Ste. Genevieve branch for years. Director Long thought it fitting for representatives from Ste. Genevieve County Library and the Board to attend his retirement. The event will take place Monday, December 16th, 10:00-2:00 at the Ironton branch.

CFO Teen Mental Health Grant: Nothing new has been received. News may come by late January/February.

Strategic Planning Needs: Several board members convened recently to discuss a tentative plan within the strategic planning report. Director Long has since sent the results of that discussion to the planning organization and should be in receipt of a response prior to the Christmas celebration. The response will aid significantly with the press release(s) discussed above.

Roof Leak: The roof situation has been addressed such that most problems appear rectified. Maintenance people are waiting to hear back from a sheet metal specialist as to how to address the roof anomaly over the kids area.

2025 Budget/Staff Closure: The budget was approved last month by the board. The commissioners however may not make a statement until January. So, uncertainty will continue to be a distraction. Library staff appear understanding, yet frustrated, of the issues specific to the budget. Director Long indicated success in April will bring positive change.

Library Visits: Real, and virtual, visits remain within favorable parameters. Story Time attendance, library card registration, Hoopla usage, tech assistance requests, and Dial-A-Story usage indicate a good community/library cohesion.

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 1:13 p.m. Next meeting is Monday, January 13th, 2025 at noon.

Respectfully:



Robert E. Bach
Board Secretary
Sainte Genevieve County Library

Jean Johnson
Board President
Sainte Genevieve County Library