

Livingston County Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of the June 19, 2025
Regular Session Meeting

Call to Order

Crystal Narr, President, called the Livingston County Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:33 p.m. on Thursday, June 19, 2025 in the Court Room of the Livingston County Library Main Branch. Those in attendance were Crystal Narr via Zoom, Sadie Beetsma, Jeff Keck, Rachel Hershberger and Mary Quinn in person. A quorum was met. Library Director, Sue Lightfoot-Horine, Jodi Moore, Youth Services Coordinator, and Kirsten Mouton, Adult Services Coordinator were also in attendance.

Guest comments & correspondence

There were no guests listed on the agenda who asked for an audience in advance of the meeting's posting. There was no sign up of individuals in advance of the meeting's start time for public comments.

There were no items of correspondence to be read.

Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to accept the May 15, 2025 regular session meeting minutes after review (Keck/Beetsma). The motion was unanimously approved.

Bills and Financial Statements

The May 2025 bills and financial statements were presented. Questions were answered by the Library Director from the Board regarding the monthly expenses. A motion was made and seconded to approve bills and financial statements (Beetsma/Quinn). The motion was unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business

The Main Library building needs were discussed with Adult Services Coordinator, Kirsten Mouton. Albert Keane, from DFS Inc., has completed his initial assessment noting a few issues to be addressed. Uneven water flow in the two tower pumps in the water tower, the fan discharge does not have the proper clearance (49" current clearance whereas the required 6.0' is recommended), a cleaning and preventative maintenance measures are priorities. The Board inquired about costs estimates for two phases of the project. First cost estimates would entail the addition to vertical discharge duct to allow proper ventilation. Second costs estimates would include proper cleaning of the system and adding magnet to purify water before entering the pipes and system. The Library Director was asked to get such cost estimates and inquire about longevity of equipment and services if repairing the current system.

Jodi Moore, Youth Services Coordinator, discussed landscaping by the READ sign as part of her projects on tap at the Youth Library and the need to reach out again to the landscaper.

There were no policies to be review and no other unfinished business came before the board.

New Business

The Missouri Chamber released notes on the latest legal challenges to Prop A which the MO voters approved paid sick leave, minimum wage increases, and the inflation adjustment to be effective May 1st. The Library Board approved changes to the sick leave policy to be compliant. Through legislative appeals, the Governor is expected to sign changes to be effective August 28, 2025. Those changes are the elimination of paid sick leave and provisions tying future increase to the CPI in 2027 was repealed. After discussions with Salina Skipper, the Library's HR/Bookkeeper, the administration feels the changes we implemented were beneficial to staff overall and were fair. We both feel that changes prompted by Prop A originally outlined a better plan for our part time staff and we would like to continue as our sick leave policies as stated currently. The Library Board agreed and there is no action as we retain our current sick leave policies for all staff.

The Library Director outlined funding challenges on both the property taxes and IMLS grants to states as this has been a priority of Missouri Public Library Directors and the need for advocacy. She stated that the Missouri State Library have funding cuts for the fiscal year 2026, starting in September, 2025, and how those were addressed going forward with a reduction in staff. The IMLS Federal Grants to States funding sunsets on September 30, 2025, and currently IMLS as a whole is not included in the President's budget for 2026. This is on the watchlist for developments as they occur.

The Library Director introduced an alternate funding source, sales tax, and explained how this process works as more libraries throughout the state are considering this option. Currently there are nine (9) counties identified to authorize a sale tax under RsMO 182.802 (Butler, Ripley, Wayne, Stoddard, New Madrid, Dunklin, Pemiscot, Saline, and Cedar counties). There is movement amongst other counties to add their name to the list by one of two methods. Scenic Regional Library and St. Charles City-County Library are leading this charge to file a bill in December to amend the current library sales tax law to include their counties. They have opened the door for other public libraries to file with them. This is proposed as a backup plan in case the Missouri Assembly reduces property taxes. Sue explains if a county is added to the law, it just means that your Board can ask voters to approve a sales tax if they want. It doesn't mean that your property taxes are automatically replaced with sales taxes. This is only the first of three steps: 1) added to law; 2) Board approves asking voters; 3) voters decide. If and when financial implications indicate, the law will allow the library to ask the voters to approve a sales tax. It has been suggested to have two versions of the amended bill. One would allow libraries statewide to ask voters for sales taxes. It would create a cleaner and simpler version of the sales law. The second version would be aimed at only allowing specific libraries to ask voters for sales taxes, like the existing law is structured now. We would introduce the statewide version first in the House and Senate in December simultaneously, and if there was resistance, we could substitute it with the second version. After many discussion points, a motion was made and seconded to approve placing Livingston County Library to authorize a sales tax under the amended bill (Keck/Quinn) in one or two manners as described above. The motion was unanimously approved.

Hearing no new business to come before the Board, the President moved to Administration reports.

Reports

The Library Director summed up her reports mainly under new business and gave the floor to the Adult Services Coordinator, Kirsten Mouton. Kirsten and Sue explained the differences in the traditional interlibrary loan process (OCLC) and that of Missouri Evergreen loans. The Missouri State Library will not renew the subsidy of OCLC as the library's statistical use has been dropping as more libraries migrate to Missouri Evergreen. Sue suggested that receiving interlibrary loans with Kansas City Public Library and Mid-Continent Public Library would fill the void as alternate outlets for library materials. She will contact those libraries to begin their service. During the program report, Crystal Narr suggested holding a program with a color analyst. She will share her contact information with Kirsten as we develop more programming for adults.

Jodi Moore, Youth Services Coordinator highlighted the youth and teen services and programs for last month. She talked about the preschoolers visit from Princeton, MO, which was a first, Will Stuck's visits to the school for summer reading promotions, and the community event, Chalk it Up Chilli.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn at 5:45 pm and was seconded (Beetsma/Hershberger). The motion was unanimously approved.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 17th at 4:30 p.m. in the Court Room, 2nd Floor, at the Main Library and via the recurring meeting Zoom link. The Livingston County Library Charitable Trust Board will meet directly after.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Lightfoot-Horine, Library Director & Acting Secretary