

Rolla Public Library
Board of Trustees
Minutes of January 18, 2024

- I. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Kristi Fleischhauer called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. Members present included: Amy Koenig, Becky Roberts, John Denbo, Kristi Fleischhauer, Rachel White (via Zoom), Julie Peterman (via Zoom), Brenda Linkeman, and Robert Haselwander. Member(s) not present included: One vacancy remains.

- II. **Welcome to Visitors and Public Comment:** Kristi Fleischhauer clarifies meeting protocol and encourages patrons to talk with director and board members directly as well as during the meeting through public comments. Then opens the meeting for public comment
 - a. Megan Johnson, card holder and Rolla resident, clarifies her concern about sexually graphic materials easily open on our shelves for children. Proposes that the library does a comprehensive exam of all books available to children and shares examples from another book in the library to which she has concerns.
 - b. Nicoya Benton, cardholder and Rolla resident, shares many of the services that the library provides and her gratitude for having the resource in the community. Stresses the library should remain available to all and encourage patrons to follow policies in place to help their own children and not infringe upon other parents rights.
 - c. Phoenix Hazell, cardholder and Rolla resident, shares a letter from the author of the Every Body Book explaining the purpose of the book and why it should not be banned.
 - d. Chelsea Jones, Rolla resident, acknowledges everyone has their right to follow their own beliefs but asks that other's rights are not infringed upon by not allowing information to be available to all.
 - e. Karen Harris, cardholder and Rolla resident, shares that Ordinary Men is a book that is not in the Rolla Library but states that it is not banned. She suggests that the Every Body Book be put behind the counter in the adult section of the library.
 - f. Randi McCallian, cardholder and Phelps County resident, shares that a book can't harm a child and that information can protect a child.
 - g. Linda Eldredge, Phelps County resident, chose to pass on speaking.
 - h. Heath Petre, cardholder and Rolla resident, wants to speak in support of all books being in the library so that information is available to all.Kristi Fleischhauer closes the meeting for public comment.

- III. **Monthly Financial Review:** Holli Hawkins presented the December financials.

- IV. **Reconsideration of Materials Statement of Concern Board Response:**
 - a. Board Vote - Becky Roberts made the motion to keep the Every Body Book in the library. Robert Haselwander seconded, all in favor, motion passed.
 - b. President Statement - Kristi Fleischhauer feels the book would be better placed in the Juvenile 600 section. Becky Roberts made the motion to move the book to the Juvenile 600 section. John Denbo seconded. Vote was 6-2 in favor of moving the book. Motion passed.
 - c. Statement by Board Member: Brenda Linkeman states that in her review of the book the author expressed that a parent and child should review the book together. Also that even though an age range is stated for the book that children are not always developmentally ready at the same time for the information and illustrations provided in

the book. She agrees that the book should be in the library but thinks it should be available upon parent request, speaking as an advocate for parents, when they feel their child is ready to receive the information.

- V. **Review and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings:** December open session minutes – Amy Koenig made the motion to approve minutes. John Dembo seconded, motion passed.

- VI. **Library Director’s Report:** Library did receive a summer reading program grant. Rebecca shared the graphs of comparison for circulation numbers that were requested last month. Over 30 applicants applied for the open position and someone will be hired soon. The director was invited to be a part of the Local Childhood Leaders Group at the Community Partnership.

- VII. **Old Business:** There is no old business to report.

- VII. **New Business:**
 - a. Volunteer Policy: Robert Haselwander made the motion to approve the updated Volunteer Policy, Amy Koenig seconded, motion passed.
 - b. Unattended Children Policy: Tabled until next month.
 - c. Annual Report: Rebecca shared the Library’s annual report with comparisons to last year's data. Report is available on the website for everyone to view.
 - d. Staff Development Day, 2/2/24: Request for approval of Staff Development Day

- VIII. **Schedule next meeting date:** The next Library Board meeting will be Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the meeting room in the Children’s Wing in person and available via Zoom.

- IX. **Adjourn:** Becky Roberts made the motion to adjourn, Brenda Linkeman seconded, motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.