Boone County Library District  
Minutes, Meeting of April 12, 2007  

Call to Order  

Lauffer called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. in the Friends Room of the Callaway County Public Library.  

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum  

Board members present were Tiff Lauffer, President; Terri Brunner; Linda Dellsperger; Pat Powell; and Jessica Robinson.  

Also present were Melissa Carr, Director; Connie Bush, Kris Farris, Melanie Henry, Pat Kopp, Sherry McBride-Brown, Marilyn McLeod, Karen Neely, Jim Smith, and Lauren Williams, DBRL staff; and Patsy Craghead, Rosie Gerding, Marie Glaze, Lynn Hostetler, MaryEllen Sievert, and David Webber, DBRL Board members.  

Public Comment  

There was no public comment.  

Approval of Minutes  

Dellsperger moved, Brunner seconded, to approve the minutes of February 15, 2007. The motion passed with one abstention.  

Election Update  

Carr reported that she had received the official election results from Boone County Clerk Wendy Noren, which recorded the following number of yes and no votes for the library tax increase:  

Yes: 3,698  
No: 10,080  

Robinson said the voters made it clear that the board missed the mark and that the plan for new branches did not enjoy the support of the majority of the population. She suggested that this is an opportunity to redouble our efforts to determine what people living in the Boone County Library District do want in terms of library services, what voters will support, and move forward from there.  

Lauffer thanked the Building Committee, the board, and the Election Committee members for their hard work. Dellsperger added her thanks to the Election Committee, especially Don Stamper and Teresa Maledy for taking on leadership roles and doing a fabulous job as co-chairs of the committee. She expressed regret that the board did not have a plan that the voters approved of and said that the board will work very hard to develop a plan based on what the voters do want.
Robinson moved to recommend to the DBRL Board that the DBRL Board President form an ad-hoc committee to evaluate the reasons behind the election results, consider and gauge public opinion regarding library services, reconcile the survey results with the election outcome, and present these findings along with recommended next steps to the DBRL board. Dellsperger seconded the motion. The board discussed various possible reasons for the election’s outcome. These reasons included general opposition to tax increases, the proposed buildings being seen as too large and expensive or in the wrong locations, voters favoring tax increases for the schools instead of the library, and the negative public image the library system has in some segments of the community. The board agreed that they need to confront the negative feelings regarding the library system and to revisit the service plan for Boone County based on community and voter opinion. The motion passed. The board discussed the need to find out how much the communication from the Hallsville Area Chamber of Commerce is reflective of the rest of the people in that community. Carr added that the board and library staff should start with an examination of the community’s needs and not make any assumptions regarding an end result.

The board directed Carr to add a book to the library’s collection in honor of Don Stamper and Teresa Maledy for their work as co-chairs of the Election Committee and their dedication to library services.

Dellsperger expressed her deep gratitude to Kris Farris, Elinor Barrett, and Melissa Carr for volunteering their time on behalf of the Election Committee and for “rallying the troops” when needed.

Miscellaneous

Lauffer informed the board that Hallsville Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director John Schloot invited him to attend a meeting on Wednesday, April 18th at 4:00 p.m. in the office of Superintendent of Schools Tom Baugh. He said that he and Carr plan to attend. Board members discussed the meeting and agreed that Lauffer should attend with the intent of simply listening to their ideas and gathering information as just one part of the larger planning process for the entire district. Lauffer added that representatives from Hallsville have asked to attend the May meeting of the Boone County Library District.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Robinson moved, Powell seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and Lauffer adjourned the meeting at 6:58 P.M.

Minutes recorded by Lauren Z. Williams, Executive Assistant.

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Board Secretary