Boone County Library District  
Minutes, Meeting of December 5, 2007

Call to Order

Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. in the Harrisburg VFW Community Hall in Harrisburg, Missouri.

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

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

Also present were Melissa Carr, Director; Karen Neely and Lauren Williams, DBRL Staff; and John Schloot, Rose Schloot, and Chad Sayre, members of the public.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes

Dellsperger moved and Brunner seconded approval of the November 15, 2007 minutes. The motion passed.

Unsolicited Northern Boone County Lease Proposal from Chad and Karen Sayre

Robinson asked if the board had any questions for Sayre about his lease proposal. Robinson then invited Sayre to make any further comments. Sayre explained that what he deemed an “ad hoc” library committee had met with Hallsville citizens to gather their opinions of what they would like to see in a library. He said that he also received a lot of input from DBRL staff at the Ashland facility. Sayre shared the proposed floor plan of the space he is offering for lease and reviewed the estimated cost for the space. Sayre explained that he wants to give the board as much information as possible so that when they are in a position to consider a branch library, they have the details necessary for their discussion and decision-making process. He said his intent is to get as much feedback from the board as possible, and that he wants to be as flexible and aggressive as he can be to do what ever he can to bring a library to Hallsville.

In response to a question, Sayre confirmed that the library committee included Susan Daly and other members of the Hallsville community. He explained that he and his wife own the property in question and are also the developers of the strip center that they hope will include the library, a restaurant, and other businesses. Dellsperger asked about Sayre’s timeframe, and he said that the property is currently in the first phase of development but that it would be ready for occupation by the fall. She asked what Sayre would do with the property if the library did not have its strategic plan in place and
Boone County Library District
Minutes, Meeting of December 5, 2007

wasn’t ready to consider another branch for one or two years. Sayre said that it would be difficult to hold the property unoccupied for that long and that he probably would have to lease the space to another tenant. Robinson said that in her opinion, the very earliest the board could even consider a proposal like this would be a year from now, and that the board and the Long Range Planning Committee have a long process ahead of them to determine the library’s future direction in light of what they learned from the election process about support for branches in general.

Sayre explained that the Hallsville group wanted to use and improve upon the same track that Ashland took when it asked for its library, and compared the amount of detailed information he was providing to what Ashland presented. He said he wants to make sure the board knows what would satisfy the Hallsville community and to give an idea of the costs.

Dellsperger encouraged Sayre, his library committee, and the citizens of Hallsville to take interest in the results of the community survey that the full DBRL Board will hear at its meeting on December 13. She explained that this information will tell the board what the citizens want in library services and that a lot of the information received will drive the board’s long range planning, including whether or not more branch libraries are in our near or distant future.

John Schloot informed the board of how in recent years the citizens of Hallsville raised private funds to build a football stadium and expressed the opinion that funding a new branch library wouldn’t necessarily have to be a tax issue. He said the citizens of Hallsville would like to establish a library in conjunction with the Daniel Boone Regional Library, especially since they pay taxes for the library, but he said that a library will be established in Hallsville with or without DBRL being involved. The board discussed with Schloot and Sayre road improvements near the proposed property, the usefulness and accessibility of the 1,000 square feet on the second floor, and the amount of new square footage (1,500) versus the amount of existing square footage (1,800) in the proposed facility. Sayre invited members of the board to schedule a time with him to visit the site.

Robinson thanked Sayre for his efforts to reach out to the community and learn about libraries to create a tangible concept for the board to review. Robinson reiterated that the board is not in a position to say what it does and doesn’t like about the plan or what it would need in a branch library because DBRL is at the very beginning stages of its strategic planning process. She added that it is important for the board to look at things like bookmobile use and demonstrated public support of the services DBRL currently provides the Hallsville community, and she encouraged citizens of Hallsville to give feedback to and work with the library on ways to enhance existing services so they better meet the needs of the community. Sayre said that particularly the seniors he spoke with had comments about the bookmobile, and the board asked him to share that feedback with them. Carr invited Sayre to call her with any feedback on operational issues regarding the bookmobile and other services. Robinson thanked Sayre for his time and for attending.
Boone County Library District
Minutes, Meeting of December 5, 2007

Board Comments and Announcements

The board discussed the date of the next meeting. Robinson confirmed that the next meeting would be in April unless the board needed to meet before then, but an exact date and location has not yet been determined.

Public Comment

Rose Schloot said that she thought the survey results had already been reported in the newspaper and that they indicated new facilities aren’t needed. Robinson confirmed that the Election Review Committee had met with the survey consultant who shared preliminary results, and that a reporter had attended and written a story about that meeting and some of the discussion about those initial results. She said that the final results will be presented to the board on December 13, and the entire board has not yet seen and accepted that report. She invited the public to attend the meeting on the 13th.

Neely shared bookmobile statistics with the board, saying that the Harrisburg stop had the second highest average circulation of all the bookmobile stops. She explained that Harrisburg is home to a number of homeschoolers who regularly use the bookmobile.

Adjournment

Dellsperger moved, Powell seconded, to adjourn. Robinson adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Lauren Williams, Executive Assistant.

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Board Secretary