

Festus Public Library Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2025

Members Present: Mark Peckham, Director Elizabeth Steffen, Eric Baldonado, Ellen Ravenscraft, Erica Eisenhauer, Vicki Greminger, Chris Nelson

Members Absent: Steve Stoll, Carleigh Williams, Vicki Cummings

Call to Order: The regular meeting of the Festus Public Library Board of Directors was called to order at 6:03 PM by President Mark Peckham. It was held in the large conference room of the Festus Public Library.

Consent Agenda: Eric Baldonado moved to approve all of the items on the Consent Agenda which included: Minutes of the March 18, 2025 meeting; Approval of Bills, and Librarian's Statistical Report. The Financial Report was not available due to software issues. Erica Eisenhauer seconded the motion, The motion was carried.

Recognition of Visitors: Gary Whitener presented information about a fundraiser "Puzzle Races". His company supplies the puzzles. It sounds similar to a Trivia Night, with participants racing to finish a puzzle first.

Public Comments: None

Librarian's Report, April 3, 2025:

1. The city will be moving to a Voice Over IP phone system on April 28th. This means that all the library's phone calls will come over the internet. We will also be getting new handsets. In the past we have had patrons report that they have not been able to get through on the current phone system so, hopefully, this will help with that.
2. The library opened two hours late on Wednesday, March 26th due to an electrical issue. Certain Areas were getting power while others were not, and we did not have internet. Jim Tindall came over to look and determined it was a problem with Ameren. Ameren came and concluded that a squirrel had tampered with the lines. Power came back on, and we were able to open.
3. For several years the library has used Netsweeper for content filtering on our computers, but MOREnet has decided to move away from them. MOREnet, who supplies our content filtering software, recommended we move to Akamai. The price is comparable to what we were paying for Netsweeper and because we switched over, we will get the remainder of YF25 at no cost. Akamai also provides malware detection, and it will offer more control over what sites can be accessed. It has been switched over and seems to be doing its job.
4. We are offering the forms for the Senior Tax Credit that the county is offering. They are free and we have given away quite a few.

5. Thursday, March 20th, Amy Shirley, Crystal City Library's Director, and I went out to Jefferson College to choose art pieces to display for the month of April. We have some very talented artists, and it made it difficult to choose.
6. We had a delicious surprise this month when the owner of the Donut Hole dropped off four dozen tasty donuts. We always appreciate snacks, and it was a great midday pick-me-up.
7. The Alzheimer's Association will be here Monday, April 14th at 10 AM with a program for caregivers of [people living with dementia. They will back on May 12th with another program.
8. Maddie, the therapy dog, was out on Wednesday, March 26th. Her canine sister passed away the day before, so they needed some time to grieve.
9. Grace Chaney and I are exploring the option of the library offering to take passport photos. The quality of the photos we get is not always ideal and this would give us control over what those look like. Several libraries do take photos including DeSoto and Sikeston. The fee is between \$10 and \$15. Another revenue stream would not hurt.
10. Food Truck Mondays will begin again on Monday, May 5th with with Picture Perfect Panini. A different food truck will be in the parking lot the first Monday of the month through November.

Friends of the Library Report:

Chris Nelson reported that they are bringing visits from the Easter Bunny back. He will be here on Thursday, April 10th at Story Time and an encore on Saturday, April 12th from 10:30 to 12. We discussed possible fund raising ideas and reviewed the new Community Profile. We are very pleased with its quality and our ads.

Unfinished Business:

Library Strategic Plan - Eric Baldonado tried to lead a discussion of the responses to the survey. It was decided to postpone the discussion to next month. He will provide everyone with copies of the survey's responses and asked that we be ready to review the "highest and lowest" amounts of responses to each category and also provide our opinion of the top three comments made in each of the 4 categories.

New Business:

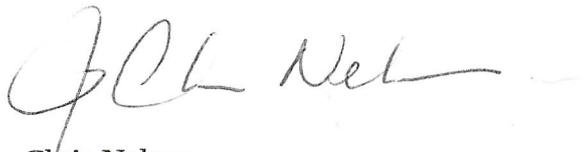
Request to Destroy Passport Records: Eric Baldonado made a motion to destroy passport transmittals older than 2 years. Ellen Ravenscraft seconded his motion, and the motion carried.

Other:

There was a discussion of the status of funding from IMLS. Several grants have been canceled and no one knows what will happens next. The biggest concern is the funding for the courier service for Evergreen. The Evergreen Program appears to be OK, as they have been preparing. Also at risk funding for the internet and our grant for a new microfiche machine for the genealogy room.

Mark Peckham declared the meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chris Nelson
standing in for Stephen Stoll