

Kokomo-Howard County Public Library (KHCPL)
Board of Trustees Meeting
KHCPL Main
February 17, 2025

Members

Mary Baker
Joe Dunbar, President
Stephanie Carrell
Alan Girton**
Stephanie Oden
Karen Sosbe
Cathy Stover**

Others

Hayden Cummins
T.J. Rethlake
Alex Toren

Staff

Faith Brautigam, Director
Doug Workinger, Assistant Director
Rita Bates, Head of Finance
Trina Evans*
Ginger Hanny, Administrative Assistant
Amy Russell
Trisha Shively*
Aaron Smith*

The meeting was called to order by the president at 4:30 p.m. with five members present. (Board members, attorney, Mayor's Youth Advisory representatives, Ms. Bates, Ms. Brautigam, Ms. Hanny, Ms. Russell, and Mr. Workinger attended in person. All others* attended via Zoom.)

There were no public comments in person or via Zoom meeting software chat.

The consent agenda was reviewed as follows (see reports and agenda): Minutes of January meeting; January statistical report; January 14 – February 10 appropriations report; January financial report; January 14 – February 10 allowance of claims; and personnel changes. The consent agenda was approved, following a motion by Ms. Sosbe and a second by Ms. Baker, by the following vote (aye – Ms. Baker, Ms. Carrell, Ms. Oden, and Ms. Sosbe). (**Ms. Stover arrived at 4:32 p.m. Mr. Girton arrived at 4:33 p.m.)

The annual report (see report) was reviewed by the board. During discussion, Mr. Dunbar inquired about what entity requires public libraries to submit an annual report. Mr. Workinger and Ms. Brautigam explained that the report KHCPL completes is submitted to the Indiana State Library. The Institute for Museum and Library Services is the federal entity that requires every state to report data from public libraries each year. Both the annual report and the signature page signed by the board president and library director will be submitted to the Indiana State Library.

Resolutions to transfer between library appropriations (see resolutions) were reviewed as follows: \$6,000.00 from Software to Public Databases and Online Learning Platforms and \$188,400.00 from Public Databases and Online Learning Platforms to Public eMaterials. The transfers were approved, following a motion by Ms. Oden and a second by Ms. Sosbe, by the following vote (aye – Ms. Baker, Ms. Carrell, Mr. Girton, Ms. Oden, Ms. Sosbe, and Ms. Stover).

The amended financial reports and financial appropriations were reviewed and approved, following a motion by Ms. Baker and a second by Ms. Carrell, by the following vote (aye – Ms. Baker, Ms. Carrell, Mr. Girton, Ms. Oden, Ms. Sosbe, and Ms. Stover). The financial reports were amended to account for the cash fund increase for the new print stations. The financial appropriations were amended to correct an employee reimbursement that was taken out of the wrong fund.

The board approved an early closure of KHCPL Main for the Haynes Apperson Parade on Saturday, July 5, 2025. KHCPL Main will close at 12:00 p.m. KHCPL South and KHCPL Russiaville will operate under normal business hours. The early closure request was approved, following a motion by Ms. Baker and a second by Ms. Sosbe, by the following vote (aye – Ms. Baker, Ms. Carrell, Mr. Girton, Ms. Oden, Ms. Sosbe, and Ms. Stover).

Ms. Brautigam provided the board with a legislative update. She reported that she, along with Mr. Workinger, met with Representative Karickhoff and Senator Donato at the Indiana Library Federation's Statehouse Day held on February 3,

2025. Additionally, Ms. Brautigam and Mr. Workinger have been attending virtual legislative updates through ILF. Ms. Brautigam reported some legislative movements that lobbyists are watching closely. Mr. Workinger also reported a trespass bill that, if passed into law, may affect the protocol for adding a patron to the trespass list. These legislative movements will continue to be monitored and reported as needed.

The board recognized Ms. Russell for her fifteen years of service to KHCPL. Board members shared their personal appreciation for her contributions in making KHCPL's Genealogy and Local History Department one of the leading genealogy departments in Indiana. Ms. Russell is retiring from her position as Head of Genealogy and Local History at the end of February.

Under Other New Business: Ms. Bates informed the board that she is still awaiting a final response from the IRS regarding the proposed penalty notice that she disputed.

Under Director's Comments: Ms. Brautigam shared a comment left by a patron on one of KHCPL's recent social media posts. The comment read: "True story, I know the library saved my life. As a young mom, with two tiny toddlers, I was dealing with postpartum depression. Many days, I would feel inadequate as a mom. I dealt with shame and intrusive thoughts constantly. My one reprieve was taking my babies to the library. I would sign up for the free programs. I would walk them in their wagon and read to them. I felt like a 'good mom...a normal mom.' The library and access to free programming for moms and littles helped me to know I was doing my best for my lovely babies. I looked forward to coming almost daily. It helped to lift my spirits during a seemingly dark time. Now my kiddos are young adults, and they love the library because of all the memories we made there."

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Cathy Stover, Secretary

[Minutes prepared by Ginger Hanny.]

The next library board meeting will be on **Monday, March 17** at 4:30 p.m. at KHCPL Main.