

**Jefferson County Library District
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Shold Room & Zoom Conference Call
Minutes – Wednesday, June 11, 2025**

Call to Order: Chair Vickie Norris called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. Present were Trustees Cheri Van Hoover, Vickie Norris, and George Sibley; Library Director Annie Scott, Library staff member Mary Coté, guest Youth and Teen Services Librarian Scott Bahlmann, and Friends President Dale Hagen.

Reading of the Land Acknowledgement

Citizen Questions and/or Comments: There were no citizen comments.

George Sibley welcomed Library Director Annie Scott to her first regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Approve/Amend Agenda: George Sibley **moved to approve** the agenda as written. Cheri Van Hoover **seconded the motion** and the **motion carried**.

Approve/Amend Minutes of May 13th special meeting: George Sibley **moved to approve** the minutes of the **May 13th** special meeting as written. Cheri Van Hoover **seconded the motion** and the **motion carried**.

Approve/Amend Minutes of May 14th regular meeting: Cheri Van Hoover **moved to approve** the minutes of the **May 14th** regular meeting as amended. George Sibley **seconded the motion** and the **motion carried**.

Board Education/Staff Update, Scott Bahlmann, Youth and Teen Services Librarian: Scott Bahlmann presented an overview of the Summer Reading programming for youth, in which readers build a deck of collectible gaming cards via their reading activities. Readers earn a free book at the halfway point and chances to win a gift kit though completion of activities. Storytimes at the H.J. Carroll and Worthington Parks and programs by local partners and performers add to the fun, as do teen game gatherings at the Library. There are 65 kids registered so far. Over the past year, Scott has partnered with the Jefferson County Historical Society, the communities that host our Story-walk installations, local judges of the Teen Photo Show, Jefferson County Public Health, and the schools. Scott visits the schools throughout the year and recently reintroduced the tradition of first graders touring the Library. The first graders really enjoyed their scavenger hunt. Scott's theater connections enrich the Library District as well, and he's considering a teen reading and writing group. Scott has also reviewed the processing of children's materials and added stickers to them to indicate their acquisition date, just like most materials in the rest of the Library District.

Director's Report: Annie Scott first thanked everyone for their help in welcoming her so warmly. Annie has met with 27 staff so far, one on one, and been impressed by the depth of their expertise. Annie is studying the structure of the Library District and has outlined some areas for growth which will be reflected in a proposed org chart revision to be effective in 2026. With staff voices helping to shape this revision, it will reduce managerial overload, create mid-level leadership roles, and better match responsibilities to strengths.

Annie addressed expediting the eVan wrap, with Teri Burrough's input as Marketing & Communications Coordinator. She emphasized the importance of mobile services and will prioritize continued bookmobile services, including an appropriate replacement for the current vehicle. The Brannon Crier recently featured a front-page article about the bookmobile.

Annie has joined the Site Stakeholders' Workstream for the proposed Jefferson County Aquatic Center. She discussed potential changes in the physical realm as well as potential programming in conjunction with an Aquatic Center. This may tie in with some landscape beautification ideas as well.

Around development and fundraising, Annie plans to meet with Siobhan Canty from the Jefferson Community Foundation. Annie sees a clear opportunity for a Legacy Giving Campaign. She would like to pursue planned solar and LED upgrades as well.

Trustees expressed appreciation for the thorough report and supported Annie's suggestion to rethink a Development Officer position. Annie will also speak at the Jefferson County Rotary Club on July 24.

Financial Report: Revenues received for May totaled \$179,714. Operating expenditures paid in May were \$211,407. The total balance of funds at the end of May was \$3,928,042. This balance includes: Board Designated Unrestricted Funds of \$2,589,155, and unemployment reserve of \$292,679. Annie Scott fielded Trustee questions and inquired into what financial information they would like to be presented in future.

Approval of Vouchers: George Sibley **moved to approve** the payment of vouchers from May for \$185,094.30. Cheri Van Hoover **seconded the motion** and the **motion carried**.

Chair's Report: Vickie Norris described her concerns about current court activities regarding libraries and freedom of speech issues. The ALA and AFSCME lawsuit Institute for Museum and Library Services may need to be refiled at the Federal Claims Court to address the Federal funding cuts. In the Fifth Circuit Court, judges have reversed a District Court Preliminary Injunction to prevent the Llano County Library (Texas) from removing books based on their content, contrary to the First Amendment, citing the "right to governmental speech." Seven judges dissented. This case overrules multiple other cases and will likely go before the Supreme Court.

Friends of the Library News: President of the Friends Dale Hagen mentioned the upcoming book sale on August 16, a recent, large donation of materials, and the possibility of partnering in the community to assist in the heavier work the Friends do. Scott Bahlmann proposed some ideas and will speak with Dale later. Cheri Van Hoover commended the Friends' work. Claire Noland and Zoe Durham were particularly complimented for reorganizing their stock to streamline sales.

Unfinished Business:

Trustee Update: Cheri Van Hoover's letter of resignation was provided to the Board of Commissioners. Vickie Norris and Cheri exchanged gratitude for the work they've done together. Cheri mentioned how proud and happy she has been as the Library District has grown. Lisa Brandes will be appointed by the July meeting of the Board.

New Business:

INFORMATION: 2024 State Auditor Annual Financial Report: Annie Scott submitted the report after a meeting with Tamara Rotz, former Library Director, Monica le Roux, and Daniel Heaton.

DISCUSSION: Board and Director Priorities: Vickie Norris shared Michael Kubec's written list of priorities, including solar power, donor event, legacy society, Trustee retreat regarding future levy lid lift campaign, education on Jefferson County's study of all county boards, and Bookmobile plans. George Sibley encouraged creativity around Bookmobile plans. Vickie mentioned the six month review with Annie Scott, to include goals for the next year. A retreat to work on the Strategic Plan update was mentioned, and Cheri pointed out the list of Board priorities within Annie's Director's Report, much of which was discussed during that portion of the meeting and which mirrors Michael's list of priorities.

Communications: Vickie Norris would like to continue the practice of composing longer letters for thanking larger donors thank you mailings. She may help to create a template. Trustees were reminded to fulfill their Open Public Meeting Training requirement and to share their certificate of completion with Annie or Mary Coté, to be filed with the County executive assistant.

Meeting adjourned at 11:57 A.M.

Next Meeting: Regular Meeting – 10:00 A.M., Wednesday, July 9, 2025



Vickie K. Norris, Chair



Joan Chapdelaine, Secretary

