

Madison County Library
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes (draft)
July 23, 2025

Attending: Charles Carter, Cindy Taylor, Ruth Harbin Miles, Mary Anne Hankla, Cheryl Yowell, Sandra Nowell, Diane Heckel (president), Gary Jones (treasurer), Bonnie Utz, Sam Cate, Molly Walters, Kate Rakowski (secretary), Jill Quinley (vice president), Jim Jewett

Opening:

Diane called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Ruth moved and Sandra seconded to approve May 21, 2025 minutes.

Library Director's Report: Bonnie
Library Statistics 7/1/25 thru 7/22/25

Circulation totals: **3,211**

Overdrive e-book and audio usage: **490**

Patrons Added: **9 Adults 6 Children**

Updated Patrons: **107**

WiFi usage: **740 sessions 916.46 hours**

Titles added: **95**

Update:

- July 22, was the last event for our Summer Reading Programs. Today was our big end of the year festival. If you came to help, we thank you very much.
- We had 361 attendees for our programming. That does not count the Blowout, which should give us another 150. We invited both the Early Learning Center and the Boys and Girls Club and the Parks and Rec kids to join us on our program days and only the Early Learning Center came 2 times. It hurt our numbers this year.
- Fiscally, Gary and I are preparing for a lean year next year. Not knowing the future of our federal grants, we are buying today in prep for next year. The essentials that we need to cover and catalog books are being bought this fiscal year. We are stocking up where and how we can.
- The State Legislature upped our State Aid monies this year. We will be getting \$80 thousand and change this year. Remember it can only be spent on books, book materials, and digital content. The county gave us our requested amount, so that money takes care of payroll, payroll taxes, health insurance, pay raise.
- All other monies, to pay the utilities (\$25,874), building and liability insurances (\$8,990), repairs, and anything else the Library needs MUST be raised.
 - This will be in the range of \$60,000 for next year.
 - We have a few prospects for donations but we don't know how much.

Treasurer's report: Gary

- Report attached
- A question was asked about why money is in a money market account with a lower interest rate.
 - Gary responded that we need flexibility when something happens like the heat pump going out.
- Jim updated us with the financial situation in the county in general.
 - The budget is very bare but the library is one of the top priorities for the county.
 - There are several departments that are state mandated for the county to fund. The Fire Department and Library are not-mandated but are high priorities.
 - The county board is pushing hard to expand the tax base to raise more revenue without stressing our taxpayers.
 - Tourism, restaurants, transient occupancy tax, data centers, warehouses, lottery, a renaissance fair/christmas lights venue and many other things have been under discussion.
 - State money is highly variable and frustrating to work with.
 - Jim shared some future state legislation of note to county control and finances that will trickle down to affect the library.

Committee reports

FOL - Jill

- Taste of the Mountains on Sat Aug 30.
- Yard sale Sat on Oct 11; rain date Oct 18.
 - Pricing begins in August.
 - Need packing materials (not styrofoam peanuts).
 - Plastic or paper packing
 - Boxes
 - Plastic bags
- FOL has been putting nice prints & paintings in the newly renovated bathroom and possibly some other sites around the library for sale. This has already proven a nice boost to fundraising.
 - Maybe this idea can be expanded to some other items - antique tables.
 - Security is an issue but can be managed by choosing appropriate items.

Grounds and maintenance - Charles

- Heat pump replacement was completed and inspected.
 - The old one died and needed to be replaced. It was not optional.
- The ceiling of the handicapped entrance was replaced.
- The employee entrance was also fixed and they will come back to trim the trees near it.

Fundraising report - Jill

- The committee has been meeting weekly to develop the letter. It will go out on time.
- The committee had an idea to put out a fundraiser jar at a few local businesses to catch people's change.

Five year plan - Ruth

- The time line is completed and handed out and a digital copy attached to these minutes.

Library expansion committee -

- Nothing to report

Scholarship committee - Cindy

- The press release with a photo was sent out.

Endowment -

- Nothing to report

Grants

- The Thompson grant committee will reapply for the second disbursement this year.
- We should look into other possible grants available.
- Some members of the board met with Tim Kaine's representatives and they are a good resource for helping us to find grants or other sources of support for us.

Old Business

- Raffle quilt - Bonnie hasn't gotten together with Pam.
 - We should have tickets for sale at Taste of the Mountains.
- Molly has volunteered to be a signatory on checks.
 - Diane Heckel moved that the board add Molly Walters' name to the signature card at Atlantic Union Bank. Ruth Harbin Miles seconded. All approved.

New Business

- We should look at the timing of the July meeting next year so as not to conflict with the Fair or end of summer blowout.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, Sept 17, 2025 at 7 PM.

Charles moved and Molly seconded for adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.