



Springfield-Greene County Library Board of Trustees

October 21, 2025

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

The Board of Trustees of the Springfield-Greene County Library District met on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 4 p.m. at the Library Center. The Trustees in attendance were: Aaron Jones, Carol Anne Robinette, Christopher Bozarth, David Yancey, James Nevins, Mar'Ellen Felin, Rachael Morrow and Stacey Penney.

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

New County Board Member

Carol Anne Robinette was introduced as the new member of the board appointed by the Greene County Commissioners.

Public Comment: Cindy Mueller

Mueller, representing the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri, addressed the Board with two comments. First, she expressed the League's interest in increased public transparency through the livestreaming of Board meetings. Second, she extended appreciation to Library staff for maintaining a first-rate library system.

Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2025, Board meeting - Morrow moved and Bozarth seconded that the minutes be approved. Motion was approved (8 yes, 0 no).

Building and Grounds Committee

Morrow presented the committee report.

- Morrow shared updates for capital improvement projects underway.
 - Library Station: Restroom renovations are progressing. A persistent leak in the foyer has resurfaced and is being investigated to identify the cause.
 - Library Center: Projects are moving forward. The Friends of the Library have contributed \$75,000 toward the pavilion project.
 - Midtown Carnegie Branch: The elevator is operational. A sanitary drain issue is being monitored.
 - Schweitzer Brentwood Branch: The AC smart panel failed and has been replaced.

- The Library District has agreed in principle with the owner of the Willard Branch Library facility to waive the right of first refusal on the sale of the property, continue the current lease with the new owner and extend the right of first refusal to purchase the building with the new owner.
- Morrow shared updates for the three ARPA projects:
 - Midtown Carnegie Branch: Crossland agreed to liquidated damages.
 - Republic Branch: The project remains on track for occupancy by December 9.
 - Hatch Auditorium: Possession is planned for November 7. The grand opening is scheduled for January 16-17 and an Event Spaces Coordinator has been hired.
- The Buildings and Grounds Committee submitted a motion to approve the owner cost for the TLC Auditorium at \$323,800, which includes \$56,000 in additional funding to cover sound modifications. The motion was approved (8 yes, 0 no).

Finance and Personnel Committee

Nevins presented the committee report.

- The Board reviewed the FY2026 September financial report. The anticipated impact of the senior sales tax freeze is approximately \$196,000; however, the Library District will cover the shortfall with surplus in the salary budget.
- Library income growth is projected to continue, excluding the loss from the tax freeze, the impact of the tax freeze will level off in a few years. The committee also discussed salary trends and staff turnover, noting that these factors will be considered in developing a new personnel budget model moving forward.

Programs, Services and Technology Committee

- No meeting in October.

Institutional Advancement Report

- The Library Foundation's new website is complete, allowing donors to contribute to specific branches or the other specified funds. The Foundation reported an initial increase in online donations following the launch.
- The Next Chapter Fund annual campaign has begun, providing donors the opportunity to give through the new website.
- The Republic Branch has received a \$19,000 Abilities First grant to pave the walking trail and install outdoor musical instruments. The Republic Community Foundation contributed \$4,000 in support of the Community Fridge partnership at Republic.
- The Friends of the Library have made several contributions, including \$75,000 toward the Library Center pavilion project, \$3,600 to support events during the

Final expenses look to come in around \$8,211,000. Walton discussed the gifts to date and said that approximate \$2 million will come from the library district's reserves.

- The Republic Branch Library
The project will come in around \$11 million of which \$4 million has yet to be spent. This project should not be over budget.
- At this point, the Library reserves after all the projects are completed will be approximately \$2 million.

Institutional Advancement Report

Director of Institutional Advancement Bridget Dierks told the committee about the Next Chapter Annual Campaign. There will be three phases, and the total cost should be approximately \$1,000. So far, the campaign has raised \$6,000, with the last mailing piece scheduled for December. Her department also sent a mailing to businesses in the Republic area about the naming opportunities available at that branch. Dierks reported that they are finalizing the Take a Seat plaques for the Hatch Auditorium and hope to sell more seats as the facility opens. Lastly, the Foundation board has issued an RFP to manage the \$2.3 million Ava Smith gift.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Bozarth; seconded by Morrow. The motion was approved (6 yes / 0 no). Meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.