

WASHINGTON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Library Board was held February 5, 2025, 3:00 PM
St. George Branch, 88 W. 100 S. St. George, UT 84770

Board members present:

Haylee Caplin	Board Member
Wendy Neilson	Board Chair
Dana Moyle	Board Member
Darin Larson	Board Member
Gene Garate	Board Member

Board Members Not Present:

Victor Iverson	County Commissioner
Kelly Atkin	Board Member

Also present:

Alan Anderson	Library Director
Tracie Madsen	Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Wendy Neilson welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of agenda
- Review and approve minutes from December 4, 2024
- Next meeting date and location – April 2, 2025 3:00 pm - Hurricane Branch

MOTION: Dana Moyle made a motion to approve the consent agenda and previous meeting minutes, along with next meeting date and location.

Seconded: Haylee Caplin

Vote was taken: All voted “aye”.

MOTION PASSED

2. CELEBRATIONS

*Alan celebrated the many fun Christmas and New Year’s events held at library branches.

*Santa Clara Branch and Hurricane Branch both have benches being built for Eagle Scout projects.

*IT placed some new computers at Hurricane Branch computer lab.

3. 2025 – BUDGET IMPACTS

2024 budget numbers have not been closed out and the December report has not received from the Clerk's office. Outside auditors are reviewing the books and final 2024 numbers will be available to be reviewed at the April board meeting.

The County Commission approved the budget for 2025.

Alan highlighted an increase in budget spending, due to a 2.5% cost of living raise and up to a 2.5% merit raise to library staff.

Another impact on the budget is the Book Collection. Overdrive has changed the allocation from a 50/50 split to a 75/25 split; meaning that 75% will be given to the state library in spending for consortium selected material, and 25% will be for the county Selectors to purchase. Any items the Washington County Library System selects, Washington County residents receive priority on hold lists for the first six months. Being a part of the Library Consortium has its negatives but positives, although, positives outweigh negatives by allowing access to more material as Davis County discovered when they withdrew and later returned.

Alan shared that years ago, the library system was not a part of a library consortium. They used RB Digital, which offered unlimited use with simultaneous access. RB Digital was later bought out by Overdrive.

Electronic items cost much more than what a physical item does. There are also limits placed on electronic items. This has an impact on the book budget.

Darrin asked about the number of Overdrive downloads from Washington County residents. Alan said we are the third largest system in the consortium, after Davis and Weber counties. The numbers in regards to Overdrive will be highlighted later in the meeting.

Santa Clara needs a new roof sometime in 2025, and New Harmony's roof will need to be replaced next year. Alan is also looking at needing to purchase a new copy machine.

4. 2024 STATS (Exhibit 1)

Micki created an infographic of 2024 statistics.

Positive increases were seen in almost all areas of the library. The complete list can be seen on the infographic, but the following list, highlights some of the increases.

- Registration – 3%
- Total attendance at programs – 10%
- Programs – 10%
- Visits to webpage – 5%
- In-library visits – 4%

- Electronic check-outs – 18%
- Overdrive Advantage titles – 45%

Physical check-outs decreased by 2%.

5. CHANGE MEETING FROM SB TO SG IN JUNE

Springdale Branch was on the Library Board Meeting schedule to host the meeting in June. The meeting room, that is shared with Springdale City, was not able to accommodate the meeting date, therefore the meeting on June 4 will be changed to the St. George Branch.

MOTION: Darin Larson made a motion to ratify the change in schedule.

Gerald Garate seconded.

Vote was taken: All voted “aye”.

MOTION PASSED

6. SUPER READER PARTY

A \$500 grant was received through KUED to run a winter reading program. The objective was to keep kids reading through the holidays.

Children under 12 from all library branches were encouraged to participate. A weekly drawing was held and children from around the county were gifted a Dinner in a Box, to cook for their families.

To finish the challenge, children under 12 would read 20 minutes per day for 30 days. For those who finished the challenge, a party was held January 25 at St. George Branch. The animal-themed party included game stations, a craft, balloon animals, stuffed dog, pinata and a pizza lunch. Pictures from the event were shown.

Those finishers not able to attend the party, were given gift bags along with the craft and dog.

7. HURRICANE RENO UPDATES

Progress is being made on updates to the Hurricane Branch. Cracks in sheetrock have been repaired and painting of the interior is near completion. Bathrooms have received new partitions, countertops and fixtures. Exterior work has also been completed on repairing the sewer line, new landscaping and exterior beams have been stained.

Pictures of the renovations were shared with the board. The branch is looking fresh and nice.

8. CITY REGISTRATION

Alan shared a table that had been created to show the cities in the county and the percentage of library card holders based on population. Statistics were not looked at in 2023, but will be going forward. It was anticipated most cities would fall between 40 and 70% library card holders. Many percentages were much higher, due to unincorporated areas throwing off numbers. A purge of the database, to delete cards no longer in use will be conducted.

The Mohave County, AZ agreement with the Hildale Library was discussed. A contract was recently renewed by Mohave County for their residents living near the Hildale Branch Library, allowing patron use of the Washington County Library System. This saves Mohave County from sending a bookmobile to the area, as had been done in the past. There is good participation in the program.

It was clarified that a non-resident student who is 18 or younger, can receive a card if attending school in Washington County.

9. BLOOD PRESSURE KITS

Blood pressure kits have been received from Southwest Health Department and are being prepared by Technical Services. The kits will be available for check-out sometime during the month of February; heart month.

Alan showed board members the contents of the kit and highlighted the QR codes throughout the booklet for patrons to obtain further information about heart health.

Kits will be available for check-out at all library branches.

10. LIBRARY OF THINGS

This was a follow-up discussion from a presentation given last meeting on ways the library can expand offerings.

Alan asked all branch managers, to make a list of items available to patrons beyond books and media.

A branch-by-branch list was shared, highlighting the many things for patrons to use such as board games, Wi-Fi hot spots, 3D printers, Go-Pro cameras, telescopes, VR headsets, Kindle fire, STEAM kits, puzzles, crafts, sewing machines, video camera with green screen, and so much more.

Some items are only for use in the library, but many are able to be checked out.

11. AMERICAN REVOLUTION EXPERIENCE EXHIBIT

The County authorized for a traveling revolutionary war exhibit to be displayed at the St. George Branch Library in May and June. St. George will host this event on the main floor near the AV/magazine area.

MOTION: Dana Moyle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 pm.

Darin Larson seconded.

Vote was taken: All voted "aye".

MOTION PASSED