

Hopkins County-Madisonville Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes from December 16, 2021, Regular Meeting
Hopkins County-Madisonville Public Library
425 East Center St. Madisonville, KY 42431

Members present: President Liz Schweizer, Robyn Elliott

Also present: Director Joel Meador, Assistant Director Angel Killough, Ashley Buchanan, Sharon Gibbs, Shanna Turner.

Treasurer Allen Davis and Vice President Jonathon Storms were both absent due to tornado-related business.

Liz Schweizer called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

In the absence of a quorum, and in the current state of emergency, the board determined that the primary objective of the meeting was to share information about the HCMPL's response to Friday's tornado in Hopkins County.

Building and Grounds

Joel gave a brief update on Madisonville maintenance projects. Gutters have been installed and sealed on the building, and concrete steps have been installed at the back of the building. The concrete loading dock has not yet been demolished, and the exterior power washing/tuckpointing/painting project is currently on hold.

Old Business

Angel gave an update on the Dawson Springs branch building's state following the tornado. The building was minimally affected, with only the awning over the side entrance sustaining damage. The branch has power and water, although internet has not been restored. Angel had spoken with our KaCo insurance representative, who had recommended, based on the current situation in Dawson Springs, that the company release the funds due to the library to repair prior water damage immediately. Library staff and the board discussed several approaches to reopening the branch. One suggestion was to repair the walls, replace the bookshelves, and install flooring as quickly as possible in order to provide the community with a safe, known space. Another was to move the bookmobile to the parking lot and set up a mobile unit inside. These are not mutually exclusive. Angel will call local companies to get a timeline for completing the interior tasks. Shanna will call a towing company about relocating the bookmobile.

New Business

Joel, Angel, and library staff shared the library's response—already in action as well as plans for action—to the tornado that affected much of Hopkins County and Dawson Springs in particular on Friday, December 10.

- A. The FINRA Foundation has approved a grant up to \$5,000 for the HCMPL to enhance the library's personal finance collections.
- B. Barnes & Noble Booksellers is hosting a book drive for the children of Hopkins County.
- C. Daily staff meetings are keeping everyone updated and on the same page.
- D. Owensboro Health has contacted the library about partnering to assist with mental health programming and collections updates.

- E. The staff is planning outreach to two of the shelters currently set up in Hopkins County: the Red Cross shelter at First United Methodist Church in Madisonville and the shelter at Pennyriple State Park in Dawson Springs. Staff is in contact with coordinators at both locations. Plans are to offer story time, craft stations, game stations, and other entertainment for the children at these locations. Librarians from around the state have volunteered to come and assist with outreach. Before in-person visits can be confirmed, the staff plans to take grab-and-go craft kits to the shelters for the children.
- F. The HCMPL is hosting a Bible drive.
- G. The Madisonville building is currently serving as an overflow donation site for the city/county.
- H. The holiday-specific billboard ads that were scheduled for the next two weeks have been updated to a new ad created for this time, reminding Hopkins County residents that the HCMPL is here to support them. Special services at this time include free copying, scanning, and faxing.
- I. All covid-19 restrictions have been lifted. Computer labs have been fully reset, chairs have been placed around tables, and charging stations are up and running. Masks are still requested inside the building. In setting up all the computers, staff was reminded that some of our machines are not up to date or completely functional. Joel will call Knights Technology to order new computers.
- J. All fines and lost item fees up to this point have been waived.
- K. Monday, December 20, the HCMPL is receiving food from Southern Red's BBQ to feed more than 1,000 people. Meals will be distributed to shelters and within the cities. All leftovers will go to the Christian Food Bank of Hopkins County for further distribution.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.

President

Member