

## Christian County Commission

Notice is hereby given that the Christian County Commission met for a Work Session at:  
The Historic Christian County Courthouse | 100 W. Church Street Room 100 | Ozark, Missouri, 65721  
On the 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023, at 10:00 am  
Meeting Minutes

### Attendees:

Presiding Commissioner, Lynn Morris  
Eastern Commissioner, Bradley Jackson  
Western Commissioner, Hosea Bilyeu  
Commission Executive Assistant Tammy Nuckolls  
County Counselor, Austin Fax  
Tamara Yancy  
Julia Taylor  
Mike & Judy Willis  
Scott Woosley  
Tory Pegram  
Brenda Campbell  
Mrs. Carsen  
Dr John V.  
Jennifer Rosebrock

Jewel Stevner  
Randy Stevner  
Reggie Micham  
Ryan Melton  
Elizabeth Dudash-Buskirk  
Don & Laura Pettigren  
Rebecca Kauffman  
J.M. Nicely  
Renee Brumett  
Gretchen Garrity  
John Garrity  
Sandy Karnes  
Dr M.

A quorum was established at 10:00 am

The Commissioners met to discuss Library Board Members.

Presiding Commission Morris - In This work study session, the Commission makes no decisions, takes no votes, and makes no promises; we listen and collaborate. If you want to say something, we will have to limit it. We have to be respectful to each other too.

Eastern Commissioner Jackson read statute #182.050.

Eastern Commissioner Jackson -The statute says the County Commission will appoint board members.

Western Commissioner Bilyeu – In the past, our process worked well. We have done so legally and responsibly every time we have appointed the Board members.

Eastern Commissioner Jackson – As Mayor, we created an application process online with the City of Ozark. I want to establish some form of a process where we are doing the will of the people protecting our taxpayers, and doing what’s in the best interest of our community.

Western Commissioner Bilyeu - A key question will be, what questions will be addressed? We have to determine the questions we ask. We have to use the same question for each applicant. These questions are going to make our decision.

Eastern Commissioner Jackson – My goal is to do what’s best for the citizens of Christian county. Everybody that’s wanting to serve in our community needs to be involved.

Presiding Commissioner Morris – This is going to be a timely process. I am a supporter of the library system. If we take this over, we need to be responsible for all the boards.

County Counselor Austin Fax – Just because you do it one way with this board doesn't mean you are required to do it that way with any other board. Legally you're not required; just because you've decided to handle the library board one way wouldn't mean you are legally required to handle a different board the same way. From a practical standpoint, you are setting somewhat of a precedent in doing this.

Presiding Commissioner Morris – We like to have input; your ideas and your comments are important to us. Please don't wait till it's too late. We want to do what's right for the library system and all citizens in this county. We have some issues that we can't compromise on. I have never heard one person say we want to take books from the library. The problem is that we have a strong group of people who think it's offensive to have books that they don't want their children or grandchildren to read. The lady that sat next to me at the M.U. Extension Board wanted to give me the book but was too embarrassed to give it to me. I read about 15 or 20 pages and do not think anyone under 12 should read these books or anyone. I would like to have a system that ensures parents and grandparents have control in the library over what books little kids can check out. I think there is an age that we have to protect. There is an age of innocence that we need to protect.

Citizen – I don't understand why people say what you just said. Why should someone else make a decision about what my child has access to, and I can't have that choice.

Whose job is to ensure that that child is getting what the parents want that child to get? It's the parent's job; it's not the librarian's job or the job of the commissioner or anyone else. My father checked my books every single time. I am going to beg you to consider let the supreme court, the state of Missouri, and educational organizations have made decisions and put-up readings geared specifically for what is educational and good for kids of different ages. I don't need someone to tell me what my children can and can't have access to.

Presiding Commission Morris – We need some compromise or control so that children do not see inappropriate books.

Citizen – There is intent and design to flood libraries and bookstores with books that you are talking about. There are 100 books that should be removed. The media make a big deal out of removing ten books when it should be all 100 removed.

Western Commissioner Bilyeu – If we could stay around the question of how the board will be appointed because this question needs to be addressed.

Citizen – I have gone to several board meetings and Zoom meetings. I feel the board has been very hesitant to implement some of the suggestions brought to them by the community. It's frustrating being a taxpayer who would like to enjoy the library with her children and to see the hesitancy and unwillingness to incorporate some of these ideas. How much budget does a drilling board have to manage? Do you have taxpayers coming to you for a solution for the drilling board like the library board? Does the drilling board and other boards endanger minors by offering material desensitizing them to sexually explicit pictures and writing? We need to protect the most vulnerable of our citizens, our children.

Eastern Commissioner Jackson – The most important topic today is how we will address the selection of the board. If anyone wants to come with me about anything, please do. My biggest disappointment that I've heard is that the library board hasn't been willing to listen. I don't know if this is true. My door is always open.



Western Commissioner Bilyeu - The best thing you can do is put it in electronic form or paper and get it to us. Please send me your best thoughts. Send it to us in an email or anything you want to.

Citizen – When thinking about the board or application membership, one of their duties is to serve as an advocate for the community, and there have been several of us that have had the chance to address the board. As you think about the questions and your process, it would be helpful if you could develop the type of questioning that would allow you to understand how they view the role that they have as a board member and how they are going to advocate for the people in the community. I have been disappointed by the lack of engagement at this point.

Citizen – I believe the content-based rating system was brought to the board originally in November. Within the last couple of months, we have asked Renee and the staff to investigate the possibility of a content-based rating system, which they are doing ongoing. We have not found any existing library where a content-based rating system, like the two or three that were presented to the board, is in effect anywhere within the US. This is not something that we have ignored. It's a really tall order of a concept because it doesn't exist in other libraries, and we have asked staff to investigate this.

Presiding Commission Morris - I haven't heard from many people say to review 80,000 books. But that's the decision the library board would make and not us.


County Counselor Austin Fax – The process has to be established first. It's not the commission's role to establish library board policy. It's the commission's role to establish the board, and the board establishes policy. But I think step one is to figure out the process for receiving applications.

Eastern Commissioner Jackson /Renee - New members go in on July 1

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 am

  
Western Commissioner  
Hosea Bilyeu  
6-6-2023

  
Presiding Commissioner  
Lynn Morris

  
Eastern Commissioner  
Bradley A. Jackson