

**Ames Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
May 15, 2025**

The Ames Public Library (APL) Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, May 15, 2025, in the Dale H. Ross Board Room with Arora, Gibson, Gordillo, Johnson, Myers, and Reger in attendance. Reynolds and Thorbs-Weber were excused. One seat is open. Assistant City Manager Goldbeck and Director Schofer were also in attendance.

Call to Order: President Gibson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Consent Agenda:

Moved by Myers, seconded by Gordillo, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Motion approving minutes of the regular meeting April 17, 2025
2. Motion approving payment of claims 4/1/25 – 4/30/25

Vote on Motion: 5-0 (Gibson abstained; Reynolds and Thorbs-Weber excused; one seat open). Approved unanimously.

Public Forum: None

Activity Reports:

Administrative Staff Report: Schofer gave a report to the Board.

- Ames is celebrating 515 Days. Right now, if you spend \$15 at Literary Grounds you receive a \$5 coupon for your next visit.
- The Iowa Legislative Session ended this morning. The legislative bills that would impact the library did not pass. Property tax legislation also didn't pass. The DEI bill did pass and will be awaiting the governor's signature. It will go into effect July 1, 2025. The City Attorney and City Administration will review to assess impacts.
- The State Library is watching for impacts of IMLS funding threats. Advocacy groups are encouraging people to contact their federal congressional representatives/senators to encourage them to continue to fund the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and Library of Congress (LOC).
- The State Library will be dropping some state funded databases, including Brain Fuse, an online tutoring program, and will be dropping our courier services to once a week.
- We did receive the Enrich Iowa agreement today which will be on our agenda next month for action. This allows the Library to receive funding through Open Access (agree to let all Iowans get card use print collection), interlibrary loan participation, and Direct State Aide (support non-operational).
- President Trump fired Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. She was the first woman, and first African American to serve and a former public librarian.
- Our Iowa Center for the Book and related National Book Festival supported by LOC could be affected. The Great Reads from Great Places Book announcement was due to be released today and we would have piggybacked with our announcement of Iowa's picks. Our youth pick is "Hard Hat Hank and the Sky High Solution" by

Charlotte Gunnufson, a Cedar Rapids author. Our adult pick is “América del Norte” by Nicolás Medina Mora.

- We are waiting on some parts for our boilers and valves, but we did get some spring fan footings for our air handling unit. We had hoped that might make the unit quieter, but we got another letter from our neighbors across the parking lot. Schofer has corresponded with them a few times, noting the strides we have taken to repair and run the unit efficiently therefore less frequently. and noting that adding something to the roof is a more involved process that would more realistically be years out when the unit is replaced. They are not appeased. Schofer talked to inspections today and will likely have police come down to do a reading and proceed from there.
- Staff are gearing up for summer, doing outreach to schools, and having three 3rd grade classes come in today for tours.
- APLFF did get some summer meals sponsorship from Chevron REG and are hoping to receive some funding from Mary Greeley Hospital again as well.
- Adult services had a great collage day program last weekend.
- The Library is receiving an Ames Community Art Council Award this Sunday at a ceremony at Reiman Gardens for Art in the Workplace.
- The Person In Charge (PIC's) Team is working on tightening up our boundaries a bit more around large carts and excessive amounts of personal belongings not coming in the library or being left unattended outside. We are also being more direct that camping/sleeping overnight is not an appropriate use for our space. We feel these are both generally within our current behavior policy.

APLFF: Gibson/Myers gave a report to the Board.

- The current APLFF President will be retiring.
- The next book sale is June 30 – July 3.
- The APLFF needs additional members; please encourage people that may be interested in reaching out as they have had a hard time recruiting members.

Committee Assignments: President Gibson appointed the following trustees to the following standing committees and new ad hoc Advocacy committee:

- APLFF: Deb Gibson, Monica Gordillo
- Art: Rick Reger, Brenda Thorbs-Weber
- Budget & Finance: Monica Gordillo, Richard Johnson, Kate Reynolds
- Director Evaluation: Zoya Arora, Deb Gibson, Carolyn Myers
- Nominating: Kate Reynolds, Brenda Thorbs-Weber
- Ad Hoc Advocacy: Zoya Arora, Deb Gibson, Richard Johnson, Carolyn Myers

Board Education: Schofer led a discussion reviewing the Iowa Urban Public Library Association statistics for FY24. The Ames Public Library ranks first in areas such as total donations received, total circulation of children's materials, and total in-person children's programs off-site (Project Smyles). We have the second highest total program numbers in the state and the second highest circulation per capita in the state. We are also the third highest overall circulation in the state of Iowa.

Policy Review:

Investments (COA Policy Adopted by Reference): This policy was brought to the Board last month for discussion and reviewed by staff. There are no recommended changes at this time.

Moved by Myers, seconded by Reger, to approve the review of the Investments Policy as presented.

Vote on Motion: 5-0 (Gibson abstained; Reynolds and Thorbs-Weber excused; one seat open). Approved unanimously. Resolution No. 2025-L017 adopted.

Petition Policy: Schofer introduced the policy. The Board discussed the policy. This policy will be reviewed by staff and brought back next month for action.

Trustee Comments:


- Myers – I appreciate the Board, Johnson for taking minutes, and Schofer for being amazing.
- Reger – welcome Arora
- Arora – is excited for assignments, excited for evaluations.
- Gordillo – excited for all the Library is doing and the committees, and to start working.
- Johnson – great meeting, thanks everyone.

Adjournment:


Moved by Johnson, seconded by Gordillo, to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

Vote on Motion: 5-0 (Gibson abstained; Reynolds and Thorbs-Weber excused; one seat open). Approved unanimously.

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Dale H. Ross Board Room.



Melissa Johannes, Library Secretary



Richard Johnson, Board Secretary