

**Ames Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
June 19, 2025**

The Ames Public Library (APL) Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, June 19, 2025, in the Dale H. Ross Board Room with Gibson, Johnson, Reger, Reynolds, and Thorbs-Weber in attendance. Arora, Gordillo, and Myers were excused. One seat is open. Director Schofer was also in attendance.

Call to Order: President Gibson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Consent Agenda:

Moved by Johnson, seconded by Reynolds, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Resolution approving donations:
 - a. Fern Kupfer \$300.00
 - b. Ames Garden Club \$44.92
2. Motion approving minutes of the regular meeting May 15, 2025
3. Motion approving payment of claims 5/1/25 – 5/31/25

**Vote on Motion: 5-0 (Arora, Gordillo, and Myers excused; one seat open).
Approved unanimously. Resolution No. 2025-L018 adopted.**

Public Forum: None

Activity Reports:

Assistant City Manager: Goldbeck was unable to attend but sent updates to Schofer to share in her absence.

- The Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST) will be providing an update to the City Council at the June 24, 2025 meeting. Board members are encouraged to watch if they are interested in learning more about what HOST has been doing over the last six months as they conduct outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness. They were given a \$11,250 pilot flex fund to meet needs and they will be reporting on how that fund has been spent.
- The City, County and United Way continue to meet on how to set up the homelessness task force per the homelessness action plan report from Dr. Flowers. While we agree it's needed, the challenge right now is staffing that task force appropriately. It is likely that work toward setting up a task force won't commence until this fall.
- Thorbs-Weber asked for an update on Schainker Plaza.

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

- We are seeing an average of 100-125 people daily for our summer meals program. This is higher than last year. These meals are made possible because of donations from Chevron Renewable Energy Group, Mary Greeley Medical Center, and the Ames Public Library Friends Foundation.

- Terrific Tuesdays, special paid performers every Tuesday at 10 am with encore presentations at 1:00pm at Sawyer Elementary for the Summer Enrichment program, are also well attended.
- The summer reading program is off to a strong start. It's open to everyone and offers age-appropriate prizes for babies and toddlers, kids, teens and adults. There is even a free book for all ages! We can offer the engaging summer programming and offer the special free books and other prizes because of the support of the APLFF.
- The summer reading program is gaming themed this year so staff are pulling in some related programming including Jigsaw puzzle competitions, bingo, and even an adult board game night. We have a bit of a celebrity in Ames (Christina Iverson) who writes puzzles for the New York Times and Las Angeles Times. Staff are working on a program with her scheduled in August and are hoping to do another one in the fall.
- Teen programs for Life Skills amidst other fun activities have been scheduled.
- Juneteenth was last Saturday with the Bookmobile there. Library support was acknowledged.
- The vestibule display is part of exhibits and a scavenger hunt with panels here at the library and at various businesses and locations downtown.
- Discovering the Civil War Era Ancestors Among US Colored Troops program is tonight with Rep Ross Wilburn.
- An upcoming film series in partnership with NAACP and some local churches called Echoes of Resilience African American Experiences in the US is starting June 24th.
- The next booksale starts June 30 and runs through July 3, 2025.
- We are in the process of getting new telephones city-wide.
- We are moving along in our recruitment process and hope to have a new Volunteer Coordinator on board soon. We'll plan some sort of casual meet and greet for them to meet all of our wonderful volunteers and as they get acclimated, Schofer will schedule them to come to a board meeting.
- Schofer has a colleague from the Library of Congress coming to visit on Monday. She is the one who recruited us to be the Iowa Center for the Book. They are meeting along with someone else she knows from Iowa State University for coffee and then coming to the library for a tour.
- Schofer also wanted to keep you informed about legislation that may impact the library and board. The City Attorney is aware of both and will follow up on compliance recommendations. House File 706 signed into law- relating to open meetings open records, increasing penalties and adding specific language about open meeting training. Also House File 856 an act prohibiting public entities from engaging on certain activities relating to diversity, equity and inclusion, and creating a private cause of action.

•
Ames Public Library Friends Foundation (APLFF) Report: Gibson resigned from the APLFF Board. Gordillo and Myers are both excused tonight. Schofer gave a report to the Board.

- The APLFF Board is planning their FY26 budget.
- They recognized two of their members that are leaving their board.
- Todd Clint is the new President.
- Cassie Luze is leaving. They will be posting for a new Development Coordinator.
- The booksale is coming up June 30 – July 3.

Committee Appointments (Amended): Gibson gave a report to the Board. She has updated the appointments resigning from the APLFF Board and appointing Carolyn Myers in her place. All previous appointments stand.

- APLFF: Monica Gordillo, Carolyn Myers
- 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

Policy Review:

Petition: 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 Reger, seconded by Johnson, to approve the review of the Petition Policy as presented.

**Vote on Motion: 5-0 (Arora, Gordillo, and Myers excused; one seat open).
Approved unanimously. Resolution No. 2025-L019 adopted.**

Expression of Concern: Schofer introduced the policy. The Board discussed the policy. This policy will be reviewed by staff and brought back next month for action. One recommendation would be the addition that the board will not reconsider any items less than three years from the date it was last discussed. Possibly adding the person bringing an item forward must be a resident. Review the wording around it is made public, perhaps included as part of public record. Should a timeline for process be included?

New Business:

Enrich Iowa Agreement: The Enrich Iowa program offers public libraries state funding through the Direct State Aid, Open Access, and Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Reimbursement programs. Funding for Enrich Iowa is appropriated by the Iowa Legislature and approved by the Governor. In the current fiscal year, APL has received \$57,475.82 in revenue from the State—\$16,705.68 in Direct State Aid, \$36,822.22 from Open Access, and \$3,947.92 from Interlibrary Loan (ILL). APL received \$59,002.41 in FY24 and \$63,761.02 in FY23 from these funds.

Moved by Johnson, seconded by Reynolds, to authorize the Director to execute the FY26 Enrich Iowa Agreement as presented.

**Vote on Motion: 5-0 (Arora, Gordillo, and Myers excused; one seat open).
Approved unanimously. Resolution No. 2025-L020 adopted.**

Advocacy: Schofer and the Board discussed advocacy. The ad hoc Advocacy Committee will meet with library managers to discuss advocacy goals so they are working together instead of doing redundant work.

Trustee Comments:

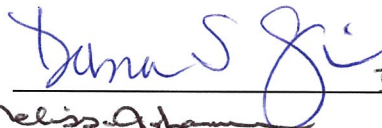
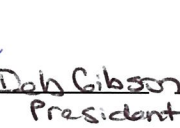
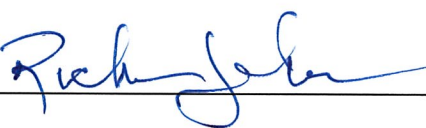
- Thorbs-Weber – wondering if the mission statement should be added to the agenda. Thank you to the staff for attending and participating at Juneteenth.
- Reynolds – sorry for missing last month; she's happy to be here.
- Johnson – this comment will be made public - good meeting everyone.
- Reger – good meeting, they always are. There is always so much going on at the library.
- Gibson – thank you everyone.

Adjournment:

Moved by Johnson, seconded by Reger, to adjourn at 8:18 p.m.

**Vote on Motion: 5-0 (Arora, Gordillo, and Myers excused; one seat open).
Approved unanimously.**

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Dale H. Ross Board Room.

		
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Melissa Johannes, Library Secretary	Deb Gibson President	Richard Johnson, Board Secretary