

**Ames Public Library Board of Trustees  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
July 17, 2025**

The Ames Public Library (APL) Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, July 17, 2025, in the Dale H. Ross Board Room with Arora, Gibson, Gordillo, Johnson, Reger, Reynolds, and Thorbs-Weber in attendance. Myers was excused. One seat is open. Director Schofer and Teen Librarian Coffey were also in attendance.

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

**Consent Agenda:**

**Moved by Thorbs weber, seconded by Reynolds, to approve the consent agenda as follows:**

1. Resolution approving donations:
  - a. Susan North (credit refund 2/27/25) .....\$32.99
  - b. Rachel Eash (credit refund 4/9/25) .....\$12.99
  - c. Susan Dow (credit refund 5/11/25) .....\$16.99
  - d. Erica Dalluge (credit refund 5/22/25) .....\$22.49
  - e. Louis Ratsimbazafy (credit refund 6/13/25) .....\$4.99
  - f. Hannah Manyara (credit refund 6/19/25) .....\$8.99
  - g. Rachel De Bruin (credit refund 6/22/25).....\$4.99
  - h. Golden Kiwanis Club of Ames Public Library .....\$1000.00
2. Motion approving minutes of the regular meeting June 19, 2025
3. Motion approving payment of claims 6/1/25 – 6/30/25

**Vote on Motion: 6-0 (Gibson abstained, Myers excused; one seat open). Approved unanimously. Resolution No. 2025-L021 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 City Manager office is gearing up for Rummage Rampage – The City partners with Iowa State University to raise community awareness about diverting waste from the landfill to reuse if possible. Rummage RAMPage 2025 will be Friday, July 25, to Saturday, August 2, this year. Last year, more than 132,782 pounds of furniture and housewares were diverted. Roughly \$62,300 were raised for local non-profit agencies and there were fifty-one participating volunteer organizations who came to help make the event possible.
- Last Thursday, July 10, was the ribbon cutting for the agility course (ninja course) at Carr Park. The Parks and Rec Commission focuses on bringing a diverse array of recreational experiences to Ames's residents, so this was a new addition.
- On August 7 at 4 p.m. there will be a ribbon cutting on the Friedrich mini-pitch (mini-soccer) court at Lloyd Kurtz Park.

- The 3.2-mile path at Ada Hayden Heritage Park will be replaced starting in August and completed by November. This new path will be two feet wider and concrete, replacing the current 10-feet asphalt path.
- The Council has also recently awarded a contract to TK Concrete for the construction of Daley Park Splash Pad which is expected to be completed by June 1, 2026.
- At the Council meeting, the Council will also discuss the City's nuisance ordinance and whether to make changes to it or not. The City receives a variety of maintenance complaints about private properties, and if it's not outlined in the nuisance ordinance, there's nothing the City can enforce. This will be a Council discussion on whether changes are needed or desired.
- The ASSET Partners (City, County, ISU Student Government and United Way) have been working to try and outline some shared priorities amongst the funders. Creating alignment in funding priorities is one of the recommendations from the homelessness action plan report that Analytic Insights provided this past spring. This work should be wrapped up in the next month in time for the new funding cycle to begin. The County has also added a case manager position and is currently recruiting for that job:  
<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/storyia/jobs/5005096-0/housing-stability-case-manager-liaison> It closes 8/1/2025.
- Next Tuesday, July 22, the Council will hear the annual update from the Sustainability Coordinator about what work has been done and what's ahead.

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

- Schofer shared another email correspondence from Monahan. He seems to have a particular point of view and is not interested in clarifying misconceptions or skewed interpretation of data. The City Council and Mayor were copied. Schofer did receive a thank you and the data speaks for itself email from City Council Member Betcher. The City Council does not respond unless there is a specific question or request.
- Schofer received an update from the City Attorney on the new DEI legislation. We will be reviewing our website for compliance and staff training offerings, ensuring there isn't any required training (does not impact optional training). This legislation does not impact our programming or collection offerings.
- Summer Lunches are going well. Anderson and Schofer talked with someone who is doing a write up for Mary Greeley's newsletter as a funder. An average of 130 meals are served each day with Tuesday often going higher since we have special performers. The youth volunteers are amazing. When Schofer popped in yesterday to ask them some questions in anticipation of the interview, they shared that they have more confidence speaking with the public, enjoy the service-minded opportunity and the ability to problem solve, plus its lots of fun to hang out with other teens. The food waste diversion aspect is always a surprise hit as they learn about recycling.
- Jehan Faisal, our Volunteer Coordinator, starts on Monday. We will be going through all the onboarding tasks to help her get re-acclimated. I plan to invite her to a meeting soon.
- A Library of Congress colleague, who is a lead on the Center for the Book, visited us last Monday. She was super impressed and really talked us up at the national



meeting on Zoom. She shared some LOC grant opportunities using Primary Sources. We did apply for a smaller LOC connected grant related to the PBS Kens Burns American Revolution series and will explore one of the larger regional grants as Anderson and Schofer will be attending the National Book Festival event in early September along with a Center for the Book meeting with national colleagues. We'll do a live screening of the festival as a program, a book discussion of the adult title in September, and author visits with both the adult and youth authors.

- Our in-reach with the Bridge Home has stopped as they do some re-organization. Their previous Director resigned, and they are being managed in the short term by a shelter service out of Des Moines. Hopefully, this is more of a pause than an end. I plan to reach out to say that we remain open and interested in partnering with them as they get their re-organization finalized either for in-reach or some other collaboration.
- We have had more building issues. We had a sewage leak one weekend in late June. Duckett, Library Building Maintenance Supervisor, came in and an emergency plumber and avoided any major issues although cleaning and sanitizing was a lot of work. On July 6, there was condensation "raining" down from our chiller beams in the youth services area. Staff were great. Duckett was out of town but was able to communicate with local staff and walk them through the software to troubleshoot the system and stop the system from raining until Duckett could follow up with our Woodmen consultants. We learn something new every time. Schofer did call our Risk Manager to inquire about the process and level of a formal insurance claim for future knowledge. About one hundred youth books were damaged.

Ames Public Library Friends Foundation (APLFF) Report: Gordillo gave a report to the Board.

- APLFF met this afternoon instead of last week. It was Gordillo's first meeting.
- They are doing well financially.
- It was the last meeting for Luze. She will be leaving at the end of August. The Foundation Development Director position is advertised and will remain open until it is filled. The APLFF Executive Committee will start reviewing candidates next week.
- The new website is live. They will be working to push more traffic towards it.
- Pub Fiction ticket sales are live. Pub Fiction is on August 14.

Budget and Finance Committee: Johnson gave a report to the Board.

- This month's meeting looked at a fiscal year 2025 summary. It shows we are about 98% spent with some outstanding expenses, bringing us to almost 99% spent in the general fund which is in line with what we were expecting. No questions or concerns. The reports are always detailed and there is always more information available to us if we ever have questions.

**Moved by Reger, seconded by Johnson, to approve the financial report as presented.**

**Vote on Motion: 6-0 (Gibson abstained, Myers excused; one seat open). Approved unanimously.**

**Board Education:** Teen Librarian Coffey gave a presentation on the teen space and teen programming. The teen space aims to address the developmental needs of teens by providing opportunities for them to gain confidence and experience achievement, explore identity, express themselves creatively, and engage in positive social interactions.

Coffey considered the design of the space to include flexible seating areas to accommodate concurrent activities and social preferences, teen agency in altering/contributing to the space, and numerous "low risk" activities near the entrance to encourage teens to come in.

There are active program offerings including recurring programs such as a weekly video game night, a bi-weekly silent book club, and a monthly Anime Club and Teen Advisory Group and special one-time programs such as movie nights, board game nights, puzzle competitions, and teen wellness programming with partnership groups.

There are also passive program offerings. Permanent activities such as Perler Beads, project boxes, video games, and puzzles to allow for consistent options. Rotating options such as interactive wall activities, interactive bulletin boards, and a teen input board to provide novelty and seasonal/timely tie-ins.

#### **Policy Review:**

Expression of Concern: This policy was brought to the Board last month for discussion and reviewed by staff. The recommended changes include adding wording in the fourth bullet under "Expressions of Concern" that limit the consideration of requests to City of Ames residents only. Once an item has been formally considered by the Board of Trustees, it will not be reconsidered until at least 3 years since the date of its last discussion. The words "made public" were also changed to "part of the public record."

**Moved by Johnson, seconded by Reynolds, to approve the review of the Expression of Concern Policy as presented.**

**Vote on Motion: 6-0 (Gibson abstained, Myers excused; one seat open). Approved unanimously. Resolution No. 2025-L022 adopted.**

Director's General Job Duties: 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:**

- Thorbs-Weber – asked if we knew how much the last booksale raised.
- Arora – can't believe Coffey has only been here six months, how much she is promoting community, connection, and confidence. So thank you to Coffey.
- Gordillo – it was super interesting to go to the APLFF meeting. She is happy to be back. She is super impressed with the budget. It is super difficult to handle the money the way to it is, let alone to have all the repairs that came up and to still be on budget, it is really impressive. She knows a lot of teens and knows how hard it is for them to be comfortable and to make connections. Teens have lost the ability to make connections, so to have a space, even if they are not interacting, that the teens can be



in and be comfortable in together is fabulous and it speaks a lot about the library. She is very impressed.

- Johnson – thank you so much Coffey. It sounds like great work. He loves the ways she is opening paths for the youth to comment and how she is welcoming more people in. Thanks for that. It was another good meeting. It's good to be here helping out.
- Reger – The teen space presentation was excellent. He can tell you have a pulse for that work. Great job.
- Reynolds – has a teen that she will encourage to use the teen space. She just loves that her neighborhood has so many librarians.

**Adjournment:**

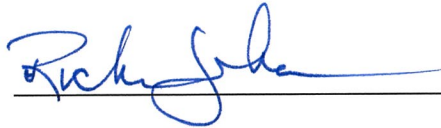
**Moved by Reger, seconded by Reynolds, to adjourn at 8:26 p.m.**

**Vote on Motion: 6-0 (Gibson abstained, Myers excused; one seat open). Approved unanimously.**

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Dale H. Ross Board Room.



Melissa Johannes, Library Secretary



Richard Johnson, Board Secretary

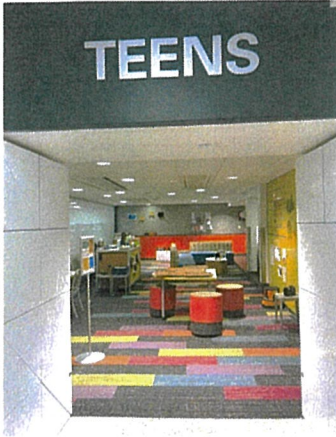


# The Teen Space

The Teen Space aims to address the developmental needs of teens by providing opportunities for them to gain confidence and experience achievement, explore identity, express themselves creatively, and engage in positive social interactions.

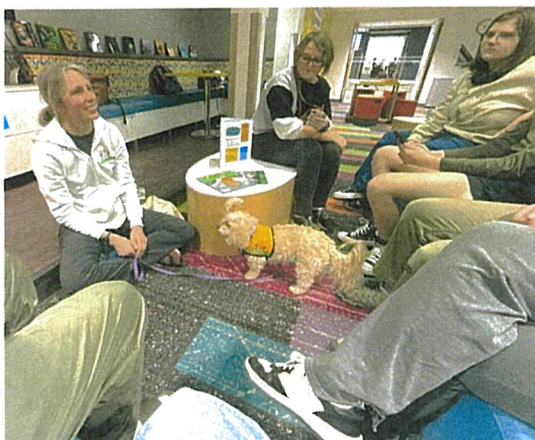
## Through Design of Space

- Flexible seating areas to accommodate concurrent activities and social preferences
- Teen agency in altering/contributing to the space
- Numerous “low risk” activities near the entrance



## Through Active Program Offerings

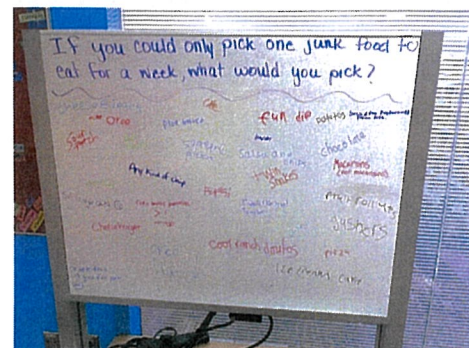
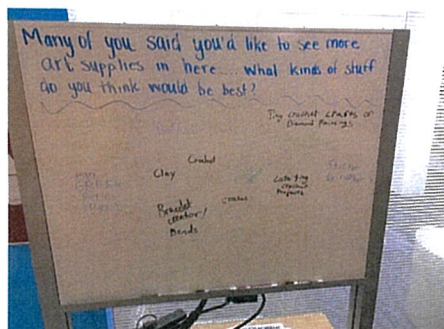
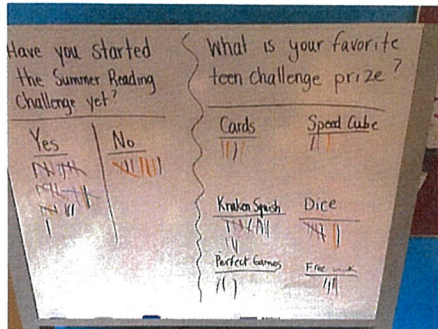
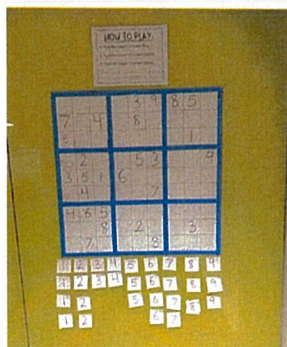
- Recurring programs such as a weekly video game night, a bi-weekly silent book club, and a monthly Anime Club and Teen Advisory Group
- Special one-time programs such as Movie Nights, Board Game Nights, Puzzle Competitions, and Teen Wellness programming with partnership groups.





# Through Passive Program Offerings

- Permanent activities such as Perler Beads, Project Boxes, Video Games, and Puzzles to allow for consistent options
- Rotating options such as Interactive Wall Activities, Interactive Bulletin Boards, and a Teen Input Board to provide novelty and seasonal/timely tie-ins



Passive Program	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
Interactive Wall Puzzle	25	12	15	18	16
Interactive Bulletin Board	15	22	27	22	19
Drawing on Glass Wall	12	11	17	14	27
Working on Table Puzzle	31	20	19	6	33
Project boxes	10	17	14	10	7
Perler Beads	36	49	41	54	67
Coloring Pages	3	6	3	2	2
Video Games	99	108	85	76	126
Total Teen Visits	237	276	251	227	280



Thank You!

Genya Coffey

Teen Librarian