

**Ames Public Library Board of Trustees  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
August 21, 2025**

The Ames Public Library (APL) Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, August 21, 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 Volunteer Coordinator Faisal 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 Gordillo, to approve the consent agenda as follows:**

1. Motion approving minutes of the regular meeting July 17, 2025
2. Motion approving payment of claims 7/1/25 – 7/31/25

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

**Public Forum:** None

**Activity Reports:**

Assistant City Manager: Goldbeck gave a report to the board.

- The agility course at Carr Park is open and seeing a lot of use by people of all ages.
- The Friedrich Pitch mini pitch at Lloyd Kurtz Park had its ribbon cutting on August 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The Council approved a contract with TK Concrete for the splash pad to be built at Daley Park. It is expected to be open next summer.
- The path at Ada Hayden is now closed. They are expecting it to reopen in November with a new, wider trail completed.
- The Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center construction continues to be progressing on schedule.
- The Police Department has a new member, Penny, a crisis dog. She is a mixed breed, in training. The hope is that she will go with her handler on certain calls where she may be helpful.
- One of the recommendations from the Conversations on Homelessness Ames and Story County Strategic Plan 2025 Report was to ensure the City's ASSET funding priorities are in alignment with the housing needs. They had joint funders meetings to try to agree on priorities and were not successful in doing so this year. They will continue to have conversations in hope of aligning these priorities.

- Another recommendation from the Conversations on Homelessness Ames and Story County Strategic Plan 2025 Report was to create a new Case Manager position. This position just closed. They will begin the interview process soon.
- The HOST (Homelessness Outreach Support Team) is going outreach every week. The various agencies are meeting regularly and discussing who they are working with, which has been very helpful.
- Goldbeck had been working with a team to complete ADA audits for City buildings. City Council will review and accept the report from this audit. Goldbeck will then work with various departments to add recommended projects to their Capital Improvement Plans.
- Staff have been researching curb-side recycling for Ames including what the framework could look like. They will at it again in fall including some public input and outreach.
- They City did buy nearly 50 acres west of Ames to turn into a destination park, complete with hiking trails with undeveloped meadows, streams, and timber on Ontario St.

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

- The summer reading program end on Sunday, August 24. The drawing for large prizes will be Wednesday, August 27.
- The summer meals program ended on August 15. The APL-Y volunteers were fabulous.
- The bookmobile and story times will take a brief break and return to a school year schedule.
- The Ad hoc Advocacy Committee and Library Managers are working on planning for the Library Champions Workshops with a goal of helping an invited cohort of community members: get to know their library better, help us tell our impact stories in the community, better understand challenges libraries face, and learn how they can stay informed and help support us.
- Staff are currently working on completing the State Annual report.
- Staff are working on compiling statistics, pictures, and working on a fresh layout for the annual report. We hope to have it completed by mid-September.
- We are reviewing our technology security practices in conjunction with our City IT colleagues. We're talking through areas for collaboration, best practices, and possible cost savings.
- Iowa State University students are back in town, and we are seeing them. We've amped up our efforts over the last few years. The bookmobile has a weekly stop on campus during the school year. During September we do a bigger, more visible push with extra staff from the Adult Services team engaging students outside the vehicle with popcorn and stickers. We've had several engagements with students including a tour of about 40 engineering students this past Saturday. We participate in campus related outreach with International Student Outreach Office (ISSO), the Resource Fair, Graduate Student Resource Fair, Welcome Fest, Club Fest, plus we have special ISU Welcome Weekend Activities at the library.



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

- New APLFF Directors joined the August meeting including Catherine DeLong, Dana Eaton, Larry Gleason, Roxanne Johnson, and Patricia Sedgwick. Todd Klindt began his term as President, with Mike VanVertloo as Vice President and Nick Hoffman remaining as Secretary/Treasurer.
- The new website is live and features things that APLFF has funded.
- Pub Fiction was last Thursday. It was another successful year with approximately 150 participants.
- They are gearing up for the Brains and Brews Trivia night at Alluvial on October 15, 2025, from 7-9 pm.
- Cassie Luze will be leaving as Development Director the end of August. They are currently interviewing for a replacement.

**Board Education:** Volunteer Coordinator Faisal introduced herself to the Board. She gave a presentation on the Volunteer Program. She started at the tail end of summer and was able to meet and enjoy many of the youth volunteers at the end of summer party with included an after-hours hide and seek event. She had a meet-and-greet open house for all volunteers also. She loves hearing about their experiences and learning about what surprises them. Nobody knows how much goes on behind the scenes or how many people it takes, for example, how many steps there are in an Interlibrary loan. Volunteers have a deep investment in the library and in the tasks that they are doing. So many people want to learn. She will be going to the Club Fest volunteer recruitment in mid-September at ISU. She jumped right into Pub Fiction, which went well. She has also created a channel on the staff Teams account to introduce new volunteers and provide updates.

### **Policy Review:**

Director's General Job Duties: This policy was brought to the Board last month for discussion and reviewed by staff. The Director needs more time to research this policy. This policy will be brought back next month for action.

Sex Offender 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:**

- Reger – is reading the book “the Library”. It is an excellent book on the history of libraries.
- Gordillo – it's nice to be back. She loved having Faisal here.
- Arora – another great board meeting. The Advocacy Group is talking through the nuts and bolts of what that looks like and who we might invite to that. She saw that Austin Frerick is coming August 28<sup>th</sup> and is thrilled for that. It is events like this that make the library great.
- Thorbs-Weber – hopes everyone enjoys the rest of their summer.
- Reynolds – thinks APL should consider an after-hours adult hide and seek event. She is excited for trivia night.

- Gibson – thank you for coming everyone.
- Johnson – read a book about Belle da Costa Greene, the personal librarian of J.P. Morgan. It is an excellent book. It was good to be here.

**Adjournment:**

**Moved by Reger, seconded by Reynolds, to adjourn at 8: 05 p.m.**

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

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Dale H. Ross Board Room.



Melissa Johannes, Library Secretary



Richard Johnson, Board Secretary