

**Ames Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
September 18, 2025**

The Ames Public Library (APL) Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, September 18, 2025, in the Dale H. Ross Board Room with Gibson, Gordillo, Johnson, Myers, and Reynolds in attendance. Arora, Reger, and Thorbs-Weber were excused. One seat is open. Assistant City Manager Goldbeck, Director Schofer, Adult Services Manager Klein-Hewett, Customer Account Services Manager Briseno, and Adult Services Librarian Sweeney were also in attendance.

Call to Order: President Gibson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Consent Agenda:

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

1. Motion approving minutes of the regular meeting August 21, 2025
2. Motion approving payment of claims 8/1/25 – 8/31/25

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

Public Forum: None

Activity Reports:

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

- A survey regarding residential recycling is currently open for anyone interested in participating.
- Over 250 people attended the Brookside Park open house.
- A bond referendum will appear on the Tuesday, Nov. 4 ballot to move fire house #2. They are planning open house opportunities for the public to see it.
- Deer have been an issue in Ames. There have been several complaints. The Parks Commission is discussing options for workable solutions.
- The revised park rules will be going to City Council for approval. The biggest change is the speed limit on park trails.
- The Animal Shelter is getting closer to reaching their goal for their updated facility on Dayton Avenue.
- The City is updating guidelines for digital print and website posting requirements as part of ADA compliance as a local government. More information will be available soon.

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

- Anderson and Schofer are back from the National Book Festival. They interacted with around four thousand people, stamping their Road Maps to Reading and

promoting our Great Books from Great Places. Tens of thousands of people attended the entire festival. Upcoming programs related to our titles, including author visits, and other literacy focused programs we've co-branded as Iowa Center for the Book at <https://www.amespubliclibrary.org/IowaCenterForTheBook> including our 3rd Annual Author Fair this Saturday and Shattering the Glass a book about women's basketball.

- Anderson and Schofer were able to tour the Library of Congress (LOC) and saw a sample of the card catalog that Ames Public Library will be receiving soon from the Library of Congress. It will be decked out to highlight some of the Library of Congress resources available online.
- The Library of Congress is also collaborating with PBS on a series highlighting Centers for the Book along and other literary people and places from the 50 States. The first episode debuted this past Wednesday <https://www.pbsbooks.org/event/rhode-island-reading-road-trip/>. We're not sure when Iowa will be up, but we'll be brainstorming internally and with colleagues around the state, so we are ready when they come!
- In terms of the building, it's inspection season. We have had the elevator, fire alarm, and sprinkler system inspected with a few follow-ups needed. A pull station was replaced. The antifreeze loop to the garage is testing insufficient and will need some work. We will also need to test the attic area in the older part of the building. Next will be backflow testing. Duckett does a great job.
- We have had a lot of new staff starting. A warm welcome to: Carlson- Ames Public Library Friends Foundation Development Director, Terrones- Library Assistant Youth Services, Paxson- Marketing Intern, Hasstedt- Adult Services Intern, and Roberts- Library Administration Practicum Student. We also have a new Human Resources Liaison, Dill, who will be working with us on the recruitment for a Youth Services Librarian which just posted.
- Staff are still doing a lot of outreach and connection with ISU. I mentioned several things last month but there was still more in September. Anderson had talked to several education classes about the freedom to read and book challenges and I believe two of them came to the library for a project.
- Speaking of students, we have speed friending coming up this weekend and had a successful Repair Café last weekend and participated in the Brookside Park 100-year anniversary outreach last Saturday. It's been busy! Pride will be coming up on October 11.

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

- The financial audit was completed. Everything looks good.
- The new Development Director started and jumped right in.
- They discussed the October 15th trivia event.

Board Education: Adult Services Manager Klein-Hewett and Adult Services Librarian Sweeney gave a presentation about the Iowa Center for the Book as members of the committee. The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress is a community of 56 Affiliated Centers, promoting reading, libraries and literacy through the Library of

Congress and its Affiliated Centers across the country. There is an Affiliate Center for the Book in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and Northern Marianas. Being a Center for the Book is a three-year commitment with the potential to renew for future terms. Centers engage, inspire, and inform diverse audiences through author talks, web-based programs, podcasts, videos, writing challenges for young people, book festivals and other events designed to advance appreciation of the written word. They also play a role in the annual Library of Congress National Book Festival by naming a book to the Great Reads from Great Places program, and they send representatives to the festival to promote their state's literary heritage to thousands of festivalgoers. In addition, they help to promote the activities and initiatives of the Library of Congress, the Center for Learning, Literacy and Engagement, as well as those of the other Affiliated Centers for the Book.

This year the Iowa's 2025 Great Read for Children is "Hard Hat Hank and the Sky-High Solution" by Charlotte Gunnufson. Hard Hat Hank and his hardworking crew are ready to build in this rollicking, rhyming celebration of teamwork, and the ways we can live in harmony with the natural world. This book is part of the Disney Planet Possible Books program, aiming to inspire and empower young readers to take care of planet Earth. Author Charlotte Gunnufson is a former teacher who frequently visits schools and libraries to entertain, encourage curiosity and get kids excited about science, nature and reading. She lives in Cedar Rapids.

Iowa's 2025 Great Read for Adults "América del Norte" by Nicolás Medina Mora. This kaleidoscopic story moves between Mexico and Iowa City as Sebastián navigates conflicting identities, both seen as "too white" as a member of the wealthy elite in Mexico and as an otherized person of color in the United States. While incorporating Mexican literary and colonial history, the novel is also a timely reflection on relationships and political systems, told with humor and sharp insight. Nicolás Medina Mora's work in English has appeared in The Atlantic, The New York Times, Reuters, BuzzFeed News, and other publications. He holds a BA in Humanities from Yale and an MFA in Nonfiction Writing from the University of Iowa. Nicolás lives in Mexico.

Both of Iowa's books sold out by lunch time at the National Book Festival this year.

Other parts of being a Center for the Book site include attending online monthly meetings, strategic planning meetings, and quarterly regional meetings.

Policy Review:

Director's General Job Duties: This policy was brought to the Board last month for discussion and reviewed by staff. Several changes were made to this policy to make it more in line with the City's official job description. The Board discussed the policy.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Gordillo, to approve the revisions to the Director's General Job Duties as presented.

**Vote on Motion: 5-0 (Arora, Reger, and Thorbs-Weber excused; one seat open).
Approved unanimously. Resolution No. 2025-L023 adopted.**

Sex Offender Policy: This policy was brought to the Board last month for discussion and reviewed by staff. No changes are recommended currently. The Board discussed the policy.

Moved by Myers, seconded by Johnson, to approve the review of the Sex Offender Policy as presented.

**Vote on Motion: 5-0 (Arora, Reger, and Thorbs-Weber excused; one seat open).
Approved unanimously. Resolution No. 2025-L024 adopted.**

Circulation and Customer Accounts Policy: Schofer introduced the policy. The Board discussed the policy. This policy will be reviewed by staff and brought back next month for action. One change in the first paragraph is adding “ages 5 and up” in the first bullet and clarifying “Customers age 18 and older must also present a valid photo ID”. We may strike “provides access to digital content” from the last bullet. This policy will be reviewed by staff and brought back next month for action.

Fines and Fees - Addendum to Circ Policy: Schofer introduced the policy. The Board discussed the policy. No changes are recommended currently. This policy will be reviewed by staff and brought back next month for action.

Trustee Comments:

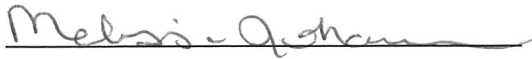
- Myers – apologized for missing the last couple of meetings. She’s excited to hear about all the things we are doing with the advocacy group and the Iowa Center for the Book. She is always impressed with all the library does.
- Reynolds – appreciates the state and national presence.
- Johnson – is impressed by the staff. They see a need and take initiation, to look at the depth of what needs to happen to make it good. Even if it often goes unnoticed it is appreciated. It’s good to be here.
- Gordillo – is proud to be part of this community, and proud to be part of the Board. The library emulates all the good that other organizations desire and the library has it. That fills her heart.
- Gibson - Thanks Johannes for organizing tables for trivia for the Board. The advocacy group is an invited group of individuals, who we want to understand the why and the how, to better build the trust, so they can better advocate, and be a voice for the library. We are holding four sessions, telling the intention, acknowledging us seeing more censorship, gearing people to tell our stories, and knowing the how and when to advocate. Each of these sessions are 90 minutes long. We may do a future Board education session to update the Board on how this series went.

Adjournment:

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

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

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Dale H. Ross Board Room.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Melissa Johannes", written over a horizontal line.

Melissa Johannes, Library Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

Richard Johnson, Board Secretary