

Minutes
Ames Public Library Board of Trustees
Dale H. Ross Board Room
515 Douglas Ave, Ames IA 50010
February 19, 2026

The Ames Public Library (APL) Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, February 19, 2026, in the Dale H. Ross Board Room with Dennis, Gibson, Gordillo (virtual), Johnson (virtual at 7:05 pm), Myers, Reger, and Reynolds in attendance. Arora and Thorbs-Weber were excused. 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 Myers, seconded by Reynolds, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

A. Resolution accepting donations as follows:

- Angie Shirk-Tewes (credit refund 7/2/25) \$26.99
- Annie Barbour (credit refund 7/29/25) \$ 5.99
- Laura Mogler (credit refund 7/29/25) \$ 5.99
- Leysan Mubarakshina (credit refund 7/29/25) \$48.00
- Neva Hinzman (credit refund 8/4/25)..... \$11.19
- Kris Scheppler (credit refund 8/5/25)..... \$13.25
- Laura Schinnow (credit refund 8/5/25) \$18.99
- Jeremy Schweitzer (credit refund 9/27/25)..... \$16.99
- Young Park (credit refund 10/8/25) \$16.50
- Samantha Nimmo (credit refund 10/12/25) \$38.97
- Heidi Chopskie (credit refund 12/15/25)..... \$30.00

B. Motion approving minutes of the regular meeting January 15, 2026

C. Motion approving payment of claims 1/1/26 – 1/31/26

Vote on Motion: 5-0 (Gibson abstained; Arora, Johnson, and Thorbs-Weber were excused). Approved unanimously. Resolution 2026-L005 adopted.

Public Forum: None.

Activity Reports:

A. Assistant City Manager: Goldbeck was unable to attend but sent a written report that Schofer shared.

- The Ames Animal Shelter and Animal Control Division is seeking community input on a proposed pet licensing program through an online survey available until February 27. The survey is available at www.CityOfAmes.org/PetLicense. The proposal sets licenses at \$12 per year for altered (spayed or neutered) pets and \$24 per year for unaltered (not spayed or neutered) pets.

- Parks and Recreation will be holding its annual hiring tailgate event on Saturday, February 28 from 10 a.m. to noon at Homewood Course Clubhouse, 401 E 20th Street. This is the kickoff event for hiring part-time summer help. Fitch Aquatic Center is expected to open this spring.
- Mark the third Thursday of each month on your calendar and join Ames City Council members and City of Ames staff at 10 a.m. for a cup of coffee at Sixty Forward , 205 S. Walnut Avenue. City staff or an elected official will be available to connect with community members every third Thursday of the month going forward.
- The City has a new podcast called “From Agenda to Action” dedicated to helping residents stay informed about Ames City Council meetings and decisions. Regular City Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Each meeting cycle includes two episodes. On the Friday before each City Council meeting, the Mayor will provide a preview on key agenda items and upcoming topics for discussion. Then on the Friday after each meeting, there will be a recap of the actions taken by Council, including votes, next steps, and what those decisions mean for the community.
- At the February 10, 2026, Council meeting, the Council approved updates to Ordinance Chapter 14: Human Relations stating that discrimination on the basis of gender identity is prohibited. The penalty would be municipal infraction - \$750 for the first violation and \$1,000 for repeat violations. The City has not investigated discrimination complaints since 2018, so staff is working to establish updated procedures on doing this work. The City would only manage discrimination complaints on the basis gender identity.
- The Warming Place was able to operate for several days in January. Ames First United Methodist Church has provided the space. The Romero House has provided volunteers. HOST members have helped with check-ins at night. Most nights saw about 6-10 people using the service. The team will re-evaluate this for next year if needed.

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

- Schofer and Klein-Hewett had the budget presentation on February 3, 2026. Schofer made a comment about the partnership with the Ames Community School District that was shared on the news.
- Schofer and a former practicum student attended Capital Day. Schofer was able to talk to Quirnbach, Wessel-Kroeschell, and Wilburn. She asked to talk to Green, but he didn't come by. There are pieces of legislation moving to subcommittee that negatively impact libraries that she is watching. Schofer gave testimony at the School Library/ Bookmobile subcommittee. The Des Moines Register covered it, and the Ames Tribune picked it up.
- Staff day was February 16 which included an update from City IT staff, the Sustainability Team, Accessibility Team on Sensory Training, a budget update, Homelessness 501 training discussion, a review of the Library Champions series, and workgroup meetings.
- The bid for design work for the additional study rooms in Adult Services was awarded to ISG Inc.

- Staff are working with a furniture vendor to create a list for replacement needs for Adult Services and additional tables for the auditorium.
- A landscaping design was created pro bono. The next step will be to secure some quotes to see if the work will require going to bid.
- Klein-Hewett and Olson did some podcasts on the Carnegie Grant and History, Seed Library and America 250.
- Schofer recorded her part for the PBS American Stories: a Reading Road Trip filming. It airs on March 10.

C. Ames Public Library Friends Foundation (APLFF) Report: No meeting in February.

D. Nominating Committee: Reynolds presented the slate to the Board.

- President – Johnson
- Vice President – Gordillo
- Secretary – Gibson

It was opened to the floor for other nominations to be made, receiving none, the Slate will be included in the Consent Agenda next month for approval.

Board Education: Schofer presented the Iowa Urban Public Library Statistics from fiscal year 2025. These statistics show how the Ames Public Library ranks against other libraries of similar sizes in Iowa. The Board discussed the statistics.

Policy Review:

A. Conduct in the Library: This policy was brought to the Board last month for discussion and reviewed by staff. Schofer introduced the policy. Recommended changes include amending the bullet starting Maliciously accessing, damaging, or destroying by adding “library technology or data” and removing “computers or peripheral equipment, or altering, deleting, damaging, or destroying the computer system, computer network, computer programs or data”, changing “in-line skates” to “scooters” in the next bullet, adding a bullet “Charging e-bikes or similar transportation in non-designated areas”, and removing the bullet “not wearing shoes”. Another change is removing “after one warning” in the second bullet under Consequences. The Board discussed the policy.

Moved by Myers, seconded by Reger, to approve the revisions to the Conduct in the Library Policy as presented.

Vote on Motion: 6-0 (Gibson abstained; Arora and Thorbs-Weber were excused).
Approved unanimously. Resolution 2026-L006 adopted.

B. Library Security Cameras: 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:

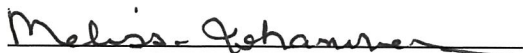
- Myers – it's been the longest month and half. She's happy to be part of such a professional team that wants to provide wonderful services to the public.
- Reynolds – happy to be here this month.
- Dennis – thank you to Schofer for advocating for the library. The notes are so helpful. It's Important to keep passing them along and stay on top of them. The effort is not going to waste. People are responding on the Facebook link.
- Reger – it is nice to be able to come to a warm, dry library facility. He also wants to note how awesome it is that Carnagie, who lived years ago, still has money coming in to support libraries today.
- Gordillo – she has been so impressed with all the information Schofer has been sending out. Thank you for sharing the IUPLA statistics. It is so interesting to see how we are doing versus other libraries.
- Johnson – thankful that the link got sent out for the meeting tonight. The wipers on his car weren't working well and there was a wreck just past where he was. It's good to meet, even virtually. Stay safe everyone.

Adjournment:

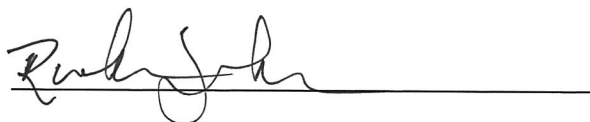
Moved by Reger, seconded by Dennis, to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

Vote on Motion: 6-0 (Gibson abstained; Arora and Thorbs-Weber were excused).
Approved unanimously.

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Dale H. Ross Board Room.



Melissa Johannes, Library Secretary



Richard Johnson, Board Secretary