

**Ames Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
October 19, 2023**

The Ames Public Library (APL) Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, October 19, 2023, in the Dale H. Ross Board Room with Gibson, Mitchell-Conway, Myers (via conference phone), Reynolds, and Thorbs-Weber in attendance. Crain, Johnson, Reger and Torres III were excused. Director Schofer was also in attendance.

Call to Order: President Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

Consent Agenda:

Moved by Thorbs-Weber, seconded by Gibson, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Motion approving minutes of the regular meeting September 21, 2023
2. Motion approving payment of claims 9/1/23 – 9/30/23

**Vote on Motion: 5-0 (Crain, Johnson, Reger and Torres III excused).
Approved unanimously.**

Public Forum: None

Activity Reports:

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

- Assistant City Manager interviews are taking place in the next two weeks. A press release went out with the candidate information and public presentation times.
 - Denise Arrell-Rosenquist at 4 pm on Wednesday, October 25
 - Pa Vang Goldbeck at 4pm on Monday, October 30
 - Benjamin Nielsen at 4pm on Wednesday, November 1
 - Roxanne Murphy gave her public presentation back in June 2023.
- The library is amid two recruitments. We had about 55 applicants for the Youth Services Library Assistant position and 30 applicants for the Adult Services Librarian position. It's encouraging to see good interest in our job postings. We had phone interviews and are now doing in-person interviews.
- Schofer attended the annual Iowa Library Association (ILA) conference last week as did several staff. Atwell presented on Teen Customer Service. Cooney, Atwell, and Sweeney presented on supporting local authors through an Author Fair. Klein-Hewett serves on the ILA Executive Board as Treasurer and Ziegler is Vice Chair of the Youth Services Subdivision. Ames Public Library was well represented.

- We've been sending out an Intellectual Freedom email series (6 parts) to remind staff of some of our foundational principles like the Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read Statement and to share information on policies and processes as well as talking points to share if they get inquiries.
- Schofer recapped a patron who had emailed the Library Board. She had responded to the patron. The Board discussed the concern.
- There is a State of Education program tonight in the Rotary Room.
- A program, Skills for Bridging the Divide, with Braver Angels is this Saturday.
- Staff Day is November 10. Trustees are invited to breakfast and Schofer's update on the strategic plan but are expected to leave following the morning session to allow staff to engage in workgroup training.
- The next strategic planning process is underway. Schofer and staff met with Stat Com at Iowa State University, who will work with us on a community survey.

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

- The APLFF Board is discussing the software used to track fundraising and donations. They had switched from Blackbaud to Salsa and are now considering Bloomerang.
- APLFF will be issuing the first payment for fiscal year 2024 to Ames Public Library at the end of October.
- They will be reviewing their retention policy and have created a plan to regularly review their policies.
- They have been in touch with a Professor of Graphic Design to have an intern work on a new logo.
- They are working with Raygun to design t-shirts that will be on sale soon.
- The Holiday Campaign will be mailed out in November.

Board Education:

Schofer gave a presentation about the Iowa Library Association conference that she recently attended highlighting a few of the sessions that resonated with her.

Policy Review:

Unattended Child: This policy was brought to the Board last month for discussion. No changes are recommended. The board discussed the policy.

Moved by Gibson, seconded by Myers, to approve the review of the Unattended Child Policy as presented.

Vote on Motion: 4-0 (Thorbs-Weber abstained; Crain, Johnson, Reger and Torres III excused). Motion approved. Resolution No. 2023-L023 adopted.

Director Performance Evaluation: Schofer introduced the policy. The Board discussed the policy. This policy will be brought back next month for action after being reviewed. No changes are expected.

Trustee Comments:

- Mitchell-Conway - can see the merit of concern over some books but upholding the first amendment is more important.
- Thorbs-Weber – thank you everyone for the work we do.
- Gibson – appreciates Schofer sharing the response to the email. She appreciates that Schofer is approachable and not intimidated by comments.
- Myers – appreciates the thoughtful response. Thank you to Schofer for advocating for Intellectual Freedom.
- Reynolds – Appreciates the conversations with the Board.


Adjournment:

Moved by Mitchell-Conway, seconded by Thorbs-Weber, to adjourn at 8:02 pm.

Vote on Motion: 5-0 (Crain, Johnson, Reger and Torres III excused).

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Dale H. Ross Board Room.


Melissa Johannes, Library Secretary


Richard Johnson, Board Secretary

