

**Ames Public Library Board of Trustees  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
May 16, 2024**

The Ames Public Library (APL) Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, May 16, 2024, in the Dale H. Ross Board Room with Crain, Gibson, Johnson, Myers (7:09 p.m.), Reger, Thorbs-Weber, and Torres III in attendance. Mitchell-Conway and Reynolds were excused. Assistant City Manager Goldbeck and Director Schofer were also in attendance.

**Call to Order:** President Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**Consent Agenda:**

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

1. Resolution approving donations
  - a. Story County Genealogical Society .....\$58.21
  - b. Jonathan Sedgwig (credit refund 7/1/23) .....\$11.19
  - c. Tiffany Schieffer (credit refund 8/3/23) .....\$13.52
  - d. Kirsten Martinek (credit refund 12/29/23).....\$11.99
  - e. Kristi Tillo (credit refund 1/26/24) .....\$7.99
  - f. Lindsey Dohrman (credit refund 1/26/24).....\$13.99
  - g. Ianka Mitchell-Conway (credit refund 1/26/24) .....\$10.77
  - h. Rachel Duncan (credit refund 1/26/24).....\$19.00
  - i. Blueberry Morningsnow (credit refund 1/26/24).....\$12.79
  - j. Rachel Claussen (credit refund 3/26/24) \$32.49
2. Motion approving minutes of the regular meeting April 18, 2024
3. Motion approving payment of claims 4/1/24 – 4/30/24

**Vote on Motion: 5-0 (Johnson abstained; Meyers, Mitchell-Conway and Reynolds excused). Approved unanimously. Resolution No. 2024-L013 adopted.**

**Public Forum:** None

**Activity Reports:**

Assistant City Manager Report: Goldbeck introduced herself and gave a report to the Board.

- The City of Ames officially broke ground on the Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center on April 24, 2024.
- The East 13<sup>th</sup> Street Infrastructure ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on May 9, 2024 to celebrate the completion of a utility connection along East 13<sup>th</sup> Street under I-35 to serve future commercial and industrial development as well as residential growth in the northeastern part of Ames.
- Saturday, May 18, 2024, is the Mayor’s Bike Ride Around Ames. Participants should meet at City Hall by 9 am. There is a twelve-mile loop planned for this free ride. Riders can complete all or any portion of the loop.

- The Furman Aquatic Center will be opening on May 25, 2024 for the season.
- The City of Ames will be working on website improvements to make it more user-friendly. They will be sending out links to gather input on how people find information. The full transition won't happen until the fall.
- City Council unanimously approved a "Payment In Lieu of Taxes" or "PILOT" agreement with Iowa State for CyTown.
  - Iowa State would charge tenants in the "CyTown Development Area" an amount in lieu of property tax that's generally equal to the amount tenants would pay for similar commercial development on private property;
  - The university would reinvest those collections back into the CyTown development to cover infrastructure costs;
  - A portion of the collections "related to the assessed value of buildings within the CyTown development area" would be dedicated to construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of existing and new facilities supporting the performing arts;
  - The PILOT portion dedicated to performing arts would be equal to what the city collects in property tax from similar commercial buildings built on private property;
  - After 20 years, a percentage of this portion of the PILOT will be remitted to the city for its general use. The amount of PILOT revenue eligible to be remitted to the city will start at 25 percent in years 20 to 24 and increase to 50 percent in years 25 to 29 and then 75 percent in year 30 and after.

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

- Ames Public Library has been designated as the Library of Congress Center for the Book Iowa Affiliate.

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. These Centers also elevate and advocate for their state's unique literary heritage. There is an Affiliate Center for the Book in each of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and Northern Marianas.

As the Iowa Center of the Book, Ames Public Library plans to host author and book events, promote other literacy-related programs happening around the state, highlight Iowa books and authors, and connect Iowans with great books and literacy resources.

- Great Reads from Great Places  
Every year, a list of books representing the literary heritage of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands is distributed by the Library of Congress's Center for the Book during the National Book Festival.

The Swine Republic: Struggles With the Truth About Agriculture and Water Quality, by Chris Jones was chosen as Iowa's 2024 Great Read for adults.

Ten Beautiful Things by Molly Griffin, illustrated by Maribel Lechuga was chosen as Iowa's 2024 Great Read for children.

Staff will be applying for a stipend for author visits and travel to the National Book Festival August 23-25, 2024.

- Strategic Plan Update:
  - The Community Engagement Team is working to complete their community input sessions. They have one focus group and two community input sessions to go. They have received a lot of good feedback and the team is looking forward to the data analysis portion.
  - The Staff/Board/Volunteer Engagement Team has collected their data and will soon work on data analysis. They've been pleased with the engagement received from both the boards as well as the volunteers they've connected with.
  - The Data Team has a few more data points they would like to collect and offered to assist the two engagement teams with analysis.
  - The public survey is being analyzed by Statcom. We should receive their final report sometime in June.
- Programmatically:
  - World Collage Day was Saturday, May 11, in the auditorium. There was a big crowd that came to interact with local college artists who presented examples of their work followed by participants making their own artwork to take home.
  - May 13-17 were Downtown Ames 515 Days. A Literary Grounds Promotion Spend \$15 and get a \$5 gift card was offered.
  - The current Macramé exhibit is receiving good feedback. Two program sessions are planned for Saturday, May 18.
  - The Bookmobile staff and Youth Services are planning for summer outreach.
  - There will be some big pushes for the Summer Reading Challenge in the schools throughout May.
  - Plans are shaping up for Juneteenth Saturday, June 15, at Bandshell Park including the bookmobile, book giveaways (thanks to a Rotary grant for diverse book giveaways) and a Library sponsored evening screening of The Lion King live action movie in the city auditorium.
  - Adult Services interacted with around 350 seniors at Thursday's Senior Expo-even stopping back at the library to get more goodies as they were going through them faster than anticipated.

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

- Luze is working with Mary Greeley on support for the summer lunch program. Board members are encouraged to join a summer lunch.
- Donor Perfect is up and running.
- The APL-APLFF MOU was approved.
- Boeck is leaving the APLFF Board creating an opening. Zbaracki will remain as President. Hoffman will be Secretary/Treasurer.

- The Fundraising Committee had a meeting Monday. They are working with Alluvial Brewery on the possibility of selling a special beer as a fundraiser with a portion of the proceeds going to APLFF. They are also working on a trivia night.
- The Pub Fiction Committee is getting things going so you can save the date, August 8<sup>th</sup>, for their costumed literary pub crawl starting at the library and continuing through downtown Ames. They are thinking about doing a specialty Raygun t-shirt to tie into the event. Schofer is exploring a programming idea to help folks brainstorm character and costume ideas.

**Board Appointments:** President Johnson made the following committee appointments:

Standing Committees

APLFF: Deb Gibson, Carolyn Myers

Art: Ianka Mitchell-Conway, Victor Torres III

Budget & Finance: Matt Crain, Rick Reger

Director Evaluation: Matt Crain, Richard Johnson, Carolyn Myers

Nominating: Kate Reynolds, Brenda Thorbs-Weber

**Board education:** Schofer introduced and reviewed the Iowa Urban Public Library statistics pointing highlighting things Ames Public Library does well, and potential areas to focus on improving.

**Policy Review:**

Volunteer Services Policy: Schofer introduced the policy. The Board discussed the policy. This policy will be reviewed by staff and brought back next month for action.

**New Business:**

FY25 Ames Public Library Friends Foundation Ask: Schofer presented the current ASK. It is similar to previous years.

**Moved by Myers, seconded by Torres III, to approve the FY25 Ames Public Library Friends Foundation Ask as presented.**

**Vote on Motion: 6-0 (Johnson abstained; Mitchell-Conway and Reynolds excused). Approved unanimously. Resolution No. 2024-L014 adopted.**

FY25 OCLC Subscription Renewal: This is the annual renewal for the cooperative collection cataloging and certain interlibrary loan services. Ames Public Library's Financial Limits Authority Policy requires Board approval for expenditure of funds exceeding \$25,000.

**Moved by Crain, seconded by Reger, to approve the FY25 OCLC Subscription Renewal as presented in the amount of \$37,546.40.**

**Vote on Motion: 6-0 (Johnson abstained; Mitchell-Conway and Reynolds excused). Approved unanimously. Resolution No. 2024-L015 adopted.**

**Trustee Comments:**


- Johnson – presented a certificate of appreciation to Torres III for his time on the Board. He appreciates Torres III’s willingness to serve and wishes him the best.
- Gibson – wished Torres III the best of luck and thanked him for the contributions to the library. Thanked Schofer for her 5 years of service. The more she learns, the more amazed she is.
- Reger – congratulated Torres on his upcoming adventures. It is a big responsibility with a lot of joy. Congratulated Schofer on her anniversary. He is excited about all the things the library is doing for the community.
- Myers – Thanked everyone for all the hard work. Thanked Torres III for his service.
- Torres III – thanked everyone for the certificate and kind words. He had started his PhD during the pandemic. The library community was the first place he had and it has been a wonderful opportunity. He is very proud of all the work that has been done. It has meant a lot to him and he will miss it.
- Thorbs-Weber – echo what everyone else has said. She used the Repair Café and enjoyed food and hot chocolate while her jewelry was repaired; it was great!
- Crain – doesn’t have much else to add. Congratulations to Torres III and best wishes. Congratulations to Schofer. He appreciates all she does.

**Adjournment:**

**Moved by Myers, seconded by Thorbs-Weber, to adjourn at 8:17 p.m.**

**Vote on Motion: 6-0 (Johnson abstained; Mitchell-Conway and Reynolds excused).  
Approved unanimously.**

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Dale H. Ross Board Room.

  
Melissa Johannes, Library Secretary

  
Matt Crain, Board Secretary