

**Ames Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
August 15, 2024**

The Ames Public Library (APL) Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, August 15, 2024, in the Dale H. Ross Board Room with Crain, Gibson, Johnson, Mitchell-Conway (7:05 pm), Myers (7:05 pm), Rearick, Reynolds (7:06 pm), and Thorbs-Weber in attendance. Reger was excused. Sustainability Coordinator Sagan, Director Schofer, and Community Relations Specialist Ocken were also in attendance.

Call to Order: President Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Consent Agenda:

Moved by Crain, seconded by Gibson, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Motion approving minutes of the regular meeting July 18, 2024
2. Motion approving payment of claims 7/1/24 – 7/31/24

**Vote on Motion: 5-0 (Mitchell-Conway, Myers, Reger, and Reynolds excused).
Approved unanimously.**

Public Forum: None

Activity Reports:

Assistant City Manager Report: Sustainability Coordinator Sagan introduced himself and gave a report to the Board in Goldbeck's absence.

- Sagan showed the design winner of the Human Relations Commission t-shirt contest.
- The new playground equipment will be installed at Christopher Gartner Park. Staff completed the installation of the concrete border, Engineered Wood Fibers, connecting concrete walkways, and final grading as part of the Christopher Gartner Park Renovation.
- Staff received almost 400 survey responses from Ames' residents regarding their choice of playground equipment to be installed in Bandshell and Stuart Smith Parks. Play Pro Recreation, Clive, Iowa, will be providing two playground pieces and swings to be installed later this year. The playground equipment at Bandshell and Stuart Smith Parks have been in place for almost 20 years.
- The National Night Out on August 6th this year was a major success. Hosted by Police Department in partnership with Blast Back to School and Hope in Christ Back to School Celebration. This year instead of giving away school supplies, they gave away shoes since we've heard from families that this is a big expense for most families at the beginning of the school year. This year we had 839 pairs of shoes, 700 bike helmets, 900+ pairs of socks, and 1100 hotdogs/chips/fruit snacks to give away. There were many displays and giveaways highlighting public safety, mental health, and other services throughout Story County. We can't wait for next year and are sure that Ames Police Department are already spit balling ideas on how to make it bigger and better! See you in 2025!

- City Council authorized staff to enter into an agreement with a consultant to host community conversations around homelessness. Goldbeck will be leading that effort with Story County and United Way. They are working on a work plan that will be shared with service providers for feedback. The goal is to start the conversations in late September or early October.
- ISU Students will be back on campus soon. City staff will be busy participating in ISU events including Welcomefest and the student housing fair, trying to connect with students and welcoming them back to the City and providing reminders about what they might need to know as returning or new residents to Ames.

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

- The Library is a LED certified building. We participate in the food diversion program, cardboard recycling, repair café, and seed library just to name a few ways we may work with Sagan.
- Schofer and Klein-Hewett are going to Washington D.C. next Friday to table at the National Book Festival representing the Iowa Center for the Book as Ames Public Library.
- Chomskie, a new Youth Library Assistant, is starting Monday, August 19.
- The Adult Library Assistant position drew 130 applicants. 118 of those applicants met the qualifications. The pool was narrowed down to thirteen phone interviews which will happen next week.
- Schofer will continue to meet with other City co-workers on next steps for supporting unhoused individuals in the community. They recently coordinated with Mary Greeley Mental Health and Bridge Home to support a few young adults we were seeing regularly. City asked Council for money for a facilitator to convene community conversations with providers to assess gaps and get input from those unhoused and impacted.
- We are wrapping up summer. We continue to be busy. Tomorrow is the last day for free summer meals. We served 150 today and ran out of food, so we needed to place a final order with Sam's Club today to cover tomorrow.
- Chevron REG one of our funders came by on Wednesday and it was a great visit.
- Staff will take a bit of a break from programming, and the Bookmobile will go in for maintenance service next week then we'll gear up for fall.
- Welcome Weekend Activities are August 23-25. The auditorium will be set up to welcome Iowa State University students with games, library cards, giveaways and a selfie station.
- Pridefest is Saturday September 14. There will be programs throughout the day as events also happen outside, with outreach at a campus event for students who are parents. Touching on Pride programming, we will likely get feedback from some community members around programming. We will have drag story time. We offer it in response to requests from our community and in collaboration with our Ames Pride partners. To support staff who may be the ones who may get asked questions or be receiving some of that feedback we send out an email with some talking points.
- Sunday, September 15 is Wheatfield 50th anniversary. The bookmobile will be there with staff tabling.

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

- No meeting was held in August.
- 167 people attended Pub Fiction.
- Trivia Night will be held October 16 at Alluvial.
- The Fundraising Committee met with Rippke Design to review mood board for the updated branding.

Board education: Ocken, Community Relations Specialist, was present to talk to the Board about what her and Marketing Assistant Ramey do including all the printed marketing materials, Page One newsletter, website maintenance, bookmarks, brochures, social media, digital signs, email marketing, etc. and how they have been more intentional about diversity, accessibility, and photography.

Policy Review:

Mission, Values, and Strategic Planning Policy: This policy was brought to the Board last month for discussion and reviewed by staff. Recommended changes include adding a link to the City's website and changing The Ames Public Library Board of Trustees to The Ames Public Library and Board of Trustees. Board discussed the policy.

Moved by Myers, seconded by Reynolds, to approve the review of the Mission, Values, and Strategic Planning Policy as presented.

Vote on Motion: 7-0 (Johnson abstained; Reger excused). Approved unanimously. Resolution No. 2024-L018 adopted.

Social Media Policy: Schofer introduced the policy. The Board discussed the policy. This policy will be reviewed by staff and brought back next month for action. May have legal review, may reach out to other libraries, not to infringe on people's freedom of speech.

Trustee Comments:

- Crain – reading answers to questions prepared for staff, think it's well prepared and good comments, thanks for providing it.
- Myers – agree, it helps staff figure it out what to say. She appreciates everything Ocken and Ramey do. Everything always looks amazing. She's very impressed.
- Rearick – thank you all for the good discussion.
- Gibson - think it's great for laying the ground work. How many times has the Library done drag story time? How many times has there been push back?
- Mitchell-Conway – Mercury is in retrograde in Leo on August 28th.
- Thorbs-Weber – volunteered at the middle school National Night Out. Always great to see the bookmobile there. Do we ever think of advertising in the mall up north with so many open stores? Do we ever think of us putting something there like having a booksale during holiday shopping time?
- Reynolds - no additional comments. Thank you everyone.

- Johnson – very interesting meeting with good conversations. He enjoyed it. Looking forward to things to come.


Adjournment:

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Myers, to adjourn at 8:16 p.m.

Vote on Motion: 7-0 (Johnson abstained; Reger excused). Approved unanimously

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Dale H. Ross Board Room.


Melissa Johannes, Library Secretary


Matt Crain, Board Secretary