

**Ames Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
September 19, 2024**

The Ames Public Library (APL) Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, September 19, 2024, in the Dale H. Ross Board Room with Crain, Johnson, Myers, Rearick, Reger, Reynolds, and Thorbs-Weber in attendance. Gibson and Mitchell-Conway were excused. DEI Coordinator Eames and Director Schofer were also in attendance.

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

Consent Agenda:

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

1. Motion approving minutes of the regular meeting August 15, 2024
2. Motion approving payment of claims 8/1/24 – 8/31/24

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

Public Forum: None

Activity Reports:

Assistant City Manager Report: Goldbeck was unable to attend but sent Eames in her absence.

- DEI Coordinator Eames introduced herself and gave a review of her role to the Board in Goldbeck's absence. Eames' position is new for the City of Ames. She has been learning what other cities across Iowa are already doing and gave props to the Library for what it has been doing. Eames reviewed some of her recent roles.
- Eames has been working with the Human Resources department on recruitment, including reviewing interview questions and assisting in developing new training classes.
- Eames meets monthly with other DEI Coordinators to share resources and what each person is working on. DEI isn't standardized. There are different needs in each community.
- Eames is the ADA Coordinator for Ames. She and a team of staff have been looking at the different City properties for ADA compliance and noting areas that need improvement. This includes the new website that is in development.
- Eames is available for any Spanish translation.
- Eames is the City of Ames Staff Liaison of the Ames Human Relations Commission whose purpose is to study the existence of discrimination in the community and work to minimize or eliminate it, promote goodwill among the various racial, religious, and ethnic groups in the City, and cooperate with other organizations to develop programs designed to eliminate racial, religious, cultural, and intergroup tensions.

- Eames has been developing a “Belonging in Ames” series that is available on YouTube and other social media outlets that highlight different people and services in Ames.

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

- Schofer and Klein-Hewett attended the National Book Festival in Washington DC and tabled as part of our Iowa Center for the Book duties. They promoted our Great Reads from Great Places books and stamped folks’ Roadmaps to Reading. They received stipend money from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for both the National Book Festival and Local Programming to cover the cost of attending the festival and to host our authors. Both author programs will be in the fall. We are doing a state-wide photo contest and a special display in the vestibule related to our children’s book 10 Beautiful Things.
- We had a walk through with the County Auditor to go over logistics for the three days of early voting and Election Day itself. October 19th, October 26th, November 2nd will be the early voting days. November 5th is the general election voting day.
- The League of Women Voters will have tabling for voter registration and have community room reservations for a candidate meet and greet for Story County on September 24th, a candidate forum on October 1st and October 8th. They are still finalizing these. We are not partnering with them, so they are not in Page One.
- Last Saturday was Pridefest. The day went well. There was some related press in the Iowa Standard. Some unpleasant comments were on their Facebook page that didn’t spill over into ours. There was some coverage that could be connected to an inquiry about our Bookmobile with stops at schools. St. Cecilia principal reached out, Briseno wrote a nice response answering the questions but also reiterating our long term (30 year) relationship with them.
- The Library is partnering with the Ames Area Religious Leaders for an Open Book program on September 29th. You may have heard of something similar called the Human Library, it’s a story sharing programs with folks who have agreed to share their identities and culture.
- We continue to address situations as they arise with our patrons’ experiencing homelessness. Someone slept in the dumpster, defecated outside, and we also trespassed two people who had a verbal and physical altercation out front. We have asked the police for support in driving by the back area at night, posted signage to indicate it is a restricted area. We are meeting with City departments, purchased an online training curriculum from Ryan Dowd who is known for his training for librarians and others on this topic.
- We are working on a federal Digital Equity Grant to circulate hotspots and tablets at Story County libraries, includes a Digital Navigator position that will assist with technology set up and offer training programs on digital literacy and online resources at libraries around the County. We included funds to support some online resources related to the goal areas of job readiness, health information etc. We submitted a request for matching funds to Story County Community Foundation for \$25,000. We could find out as early as November or as last as March.
- We had a meeting with the lowest bid vendor for our carpet. There are concerns as they couldn’t fully articulate how they would be moving our shelves nor the plan for

staging areas so that we could in turn plan for service. As we go over the process it's clear that it will be disruptive, but we are thinking creatively and strategizing some options while we wait on the final plan. There is a follow up meeting primarily with a potential subcontractor who has equipment to move the shelves in their entirety tomorrow. We should know more next week.

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

- Brains and Brews Trivia Night is Wednesday, October 16, from 7-9 pm. Go online and buy a table for your colleagues or friends. Gibson chairs the fundraising committee and has been very involved.
- Luze has been working with staff on several grants.
- They are still working with Rippke Design on mood board designs to inform the new logo.
- The APLFF Board had their financials approved by the accountant.

Policy Review:

Social Media Policy: This policy was brought to the Board last month for discussion and reviewed by staff. Recommended changes include striking "the widest possible" and changing it to "its" in the second paragraph and striking the remainder of the paragraph. The Board discussed the policy.

Moved by Myers, seconded by Thorbs-Weber, to approve the review of the Social Media Policy as presented.

Vote on Motion: 6-0 (Johnson abstained; Gibson and Mitchell-Conway excused). Approved unanimously. Resolution No. 2024-L019 adopted.

Financial Limits Authority: Schofer introduced the policy. The Board discussed the policy. Legal has reviewed and made recommendations of changes. This policy will be reviewed by staff and brought back next month for action.

Trustee Comments:

- Reynolds – thanks everyone, good job. She's excited for trivia night.
- Carolyn – thanks everybody, she's happy to help geek out with Iowa Code any time.
- Rearick – thanks everyone for the discussion.
- Reger – hopes it will work for his wife and him to go to trivia. He apologized for leaving during trustee comments to get to the last band concert. All stated the apology was appreciated but not necessary.
- Thorbs-Weber – appreciates that we are writing grants, especially this one that includes other communities.
- Crain – looking forward to trivia. Glad the Board can participate. He appreciated the email from Bohlke with the volunteer stats. 2,640 carts were shelved by volunteers. Just picturing those carts lined up, how many that is. He just loves stats. It's impressive.

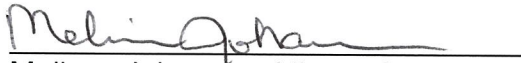
- Johnson – appreciate Eames coming in. She’s doing the work of like three people or more. Glad she has that excitement. Thanks all for the discussion.

Adjournment:

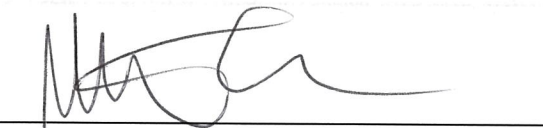
Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Reger, to adjourn at 8:31 p.m.

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

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Dale H. Ross Board Room.



Melissa Johannes, Library Secretary



Matt Crain, Board Secretary