

**Ames Public Library Board of Trustees  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
November 21, 2024**

The Ames Public Library (APL) Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, November 21, 2024, in the Dale H. Ross Board Room with Gibson, Johnson, Mitchell-Conway (Zoom), Myers (7:11pm), Rearick, Reynolds (7:07pm), and Thorbs-Weber in attendance. Reger was excused. Assistant City Manager Goldbeck, Director Schofer, and Youth Services Manager Anderson were also in attendance.

**Call to Order:** President Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**Consent Agenda:**

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

1. Election of Officer and Appointment to Committees to fill vacancies
2. Motion approving minutes of the regular meeting October 17, 2024
3. Motion approving payment of claims 10/1/24 – 10/31/24

**Vote on Motion: 5-0 (Johnson abstained; Meyer and Reger excused). Approved unanimously.**

**Public Forum:** None

**Activity Reports:**

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

- A Request For Proposals to work on a long-range plan on homelessness will close the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.
- The Story County Board of Supervisors and City Council have both allocated funding which will enable ISU to assist with some outreach to start conversations with those experiencing homelessness, those couch surfing, and those staying with family to understand what would be helpful, what gaps exist, and what is leading people to become unhoused. This will assist in identifying the community needs.
- The conversations with community partners continue to go well. About 65 people attended the last conversation mapping out who does what, who doesn't do what, and what gaps exist.
- There will be an update to City Council next Tuesday on the Schainker Plaza. The concrete work is still unacceptable. The project will be delayed until spring.
- A splash pad will be installed at Daley Park next summer.
- The Fitch Family Aquatic Center is on schedule to open November 2025.

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

- Joe Monahan submitted an additional Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. This time he is requesting all emails from the Iowa Library Association (ILA) or from any listserv they manage or newsletter type of communications they produce that were sent anytime in the year 2023, Jan 1 thru Dec 31 to Ames Public Library staff that included the following terms in their title or their body; racism, anti-racism, antiracism, social justice, civil rights, human rights, and LGBTQ.

- Schofer and Klein-Hewett were asked to sign affidavits related to Joe Monahan's last FOIA request attesting that they do not use their personal emails for Ames Public Library business beyond forwarding an occasional receipt, photo, etc.
- Schofer connected with Food At First and shared notes on homelessness. She also met with two churches to share experiences and strategies including signage and setting boundaries. Schofer will share training for staff.
- The City Manager and Housing and Planning Director held a public meeting at the Library last week to hear public comments about a potential zoning amendment, brought forward by the Romero House requesting to expand services at a new location.
- As Iowa's Center for the Book we had an Author Fair on October 14<sup>th</sup> which is a good event for those self-published or small press authors. We also had Chris Jones, author of Swine Republic, and Molly Beth Griffin, author of 10 Beautiful Things, come and hold author events as the chosen authors to represent Iowa's Great Reads from Great Places.
- We had an opportunity come up on relatively short notice to have Ruth Harkin, When My Husband Ran for President on Tuesday, with Tom Harkin introducing his wife.
- Staff Day was held on Monday, November 11. Staff had all taken a Ryan Dowd Homelessness De-escalation 101 training course and participated in small group discussions and then a broader debrief. We had a look back at our accomplishments from our current strategic plan and an update on all the staff, board and community engagement that is helping to inform our next plan that we are currently refining and plan to launch in early 2025. The day concluded with work group meetings.
- We saw a large number of folks coming out on Election Day and the several Saturdays prior. We don't have a final count from the Auditor's Office but during early voting the lines wrapped all the way through the youth area reaching as far as the southwest corner. A former Board member wrote to me to share how impressed she was with staff, especially as the youth team connected a lost child to their caregiver. We had folks who hadn't been to the library before and many got library cards and browsed our Page One calendar.
- We are planning for the carpet to be installed in early January through early March. We will need to close the youth service and adult service areas while the installers are working. We will hold programs in the auditorium, have some seating in the lobby, along with limited browsing collections and grab and go bags. A computer lab will be set up in the Danfoss room with printing and copying available. Tax appointments will take place in the Rotary room. Some seating will be available upstairs and some limited program and meeting room use will be available. It will be a bit inconvenient, holds may take longer to fill, meeting room use and browsing will be limited but, on the upside, we are committed to investing in and taking care of our beautiful building and making sure it remains an inviting and welcoming space for generations to come.
- Staff continue to work on refining the new strategic plan goals and activities. While our accreditation renewal got pushed back, we are still hoping to roll out this strategic plan early in the calendar year.
- The Winter Reading Challenge starts December 1, 2024, and ends January 31, 2025.

- The annual State Survey was submitted by the October 31 deadline.
- Schofer, Dornink, and Johannes attended the preliminary budget meeting. We will wait to hear further instructions.

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

- APLFF received a grant to provide hot spots and tablets for each of the eleven Story County libraries.
- The trivia fundraiser at Alluvial was well attended. The Fundraising Committee may do this again. It was noted that at any future events the Board should review the questions prior to the event to make sure questions do not include wording such as “uneducated black teenager” or other similar phrases.
- The book sale and sales in Literary Grounds are still doing well.
- The mood boards provided by Rippke Design have produced two potential designs for the new logo. The Fundraising Committee will meet on December 9<sup>th</sup>, there isn’t a December APLFF meeting, so the logo may be emailed out to the full Board. After a new logo is decided on, they will move on to a website makeover.
- The holiday letter is being mailed out the week after Thanksgiving.

#### **Board education:**

Youth Service Manager Anderson introduced herself and gave a presentation to the Board on 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten & Books for Babies. The Books for Babies program provides a packet to each new baby born at Mary Greeley which includes free board book, a book list of great books to read to babies, a coupon for a second free board book upon a visit to the library, information on the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program, and information on the Every Child Ready to Read program to encourage early literacy. The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program encourages parents to read 1,000 books to or with their children. There are prizes for every 250 books read.

#### **Policy Review:**

Records Retention: Schofer introduced the policy. The City of Ames is currently working on revising their records retention policy. This revised policy is expected to be adopted by City Council in January. It will be brought back to the Ames Public Library Board of Trustees in January or February for action.

History: Schofer introduced the policy. The Board discussed the policy. This policy will be reviewed by staff and brought back next month for action. No changes are expected.

#### **Trustee Comments:**

- Mitchell-Conway – it is correct that we need more programs for people in their 20’s but the beeswax program was a step in right direction.
- Myers – apologized for being late. She appreciates everything being discussed and loves the early literacy programs and city updates. She thanked everyone, and thanked Thorbs-Weber for bringing the trivia issues to everyone’s attention.
- Rearick – thanked everyone for the updates.
- Reynolds - has two of those books for her babies that she received from the hospital. She asked that we let Anderson know that her 13-year-old just printed out a picture of

herself with Smyles, taken when she was about five years old, that is now hanging on her wall, because Smyles is cool.

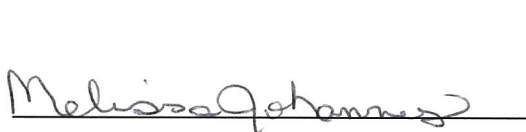
- Johnson – thank you everyone, it is good being here.
- Thorbs-Weber – thank you everyone. She is impressed that the library has had a constant bookmobile since 1966. It is very impressive.
- Myers – appreciates Goldbeck coming and giving the updates.

**Adjournment:**

**Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Rearick, to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.**

**Vote on Motion: 6-0 (Johnson abstained; Reger excused). Approved unanimously.**

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



Melissa Johannes, Library Secretary



Brenda Thorbs-Weber, Board Secretary