

**Ames Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
February 13, 2025**

The Ames Public Library (APL) Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, February 13, 2025, in the Dale H. Ross Board Room with Gordillo, Myers, Rearick, Reger, Reynolds, and Thorbs-Weber in attendance. Gibson, Johnson, and Mitchell-Conway were excused. Assistant City Manager Goldbeck and Director Schofer were also in attendance.

Call to Order: Secretary Thorbs-Weber called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Consent Agenda:

Moved by Myers, seconded by Reynolds, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Resolution approving donations:
 - a. Ames Optimist Club (Parent Packs)\$300.00
2. Motion approving minutes of the regular meeting January 16, 2025
3. Motion approving payment of claims 1/1/25 – 1/31/25

Vote on Motion: 5-0 (Thorbs-Weber abstained; Gibson, Johnson, and Mitchell-Conway excused). Approved unanimously. Resolution No. 2025-L005 adopted.

Public Forum: None

Activity Reports:

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

- The City Council approved the FY26 budget proposed by the City Manager.
- The Homeless Action Plan Consultant, Dr. Amy Flowers from Analytic Insight, is in town and met with about thirty-six service providers. Dr. Flowers will be meeting with key stakeholders in the community. She will also be talking to individuals experiencing homelessness, as well as individuals at Romero House, and Food at First.
- There is a lot going on with Parks and Rec. The Fitch Aquatic Center construction continues on schedule. There will be a splash pad built at Daley park as well as playground equipment at various parks and an agility course at Carr park and some picnic tables by the pickleball courts.
- Boards and commissions recruitments are in the works now. The Mayor will make appointments in March.

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

- The budget presentation to the Story County Board of Supervisors and Ames City Council were both on February 4th. The Board of Supervisors did approve a 5% increase for the libraries. Both the Board and City Council had a lot of positive things to say about the library.
- The carpet replacement project went well. They had great crews of people installing carpet and moving shelves. Duckett took advantage of the closed spaces to do some painting, change some lighting, clean chiller beams, and other repairs and

cleaning. Holds for materials tripled while areas were closed. We didn't have volunteers enter the project areas but staff were able to pull holds. The project was completed more than two weeks earlier than expected. A ribbon cutting is being planned for April 9, 2025 at 4 p.m.

- There will be a Story County Library Trustee training on April 10, 2025 on A.I.
- Staff day is Monday, February 17, 2025. The Library will be closed to the public.
- The ad is up at the mall. We will change it out periodically.
- Staff are applying for the Library of Congress Literacy Award for Project Smyles. Prizes up to \$150,000 are awarded to the winners.
- Joe Monahan has filed a lawsuit against Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB) since they denied his request for judicial review. He named Schofer, Klein-Hewett, and the Ames Public Library in this suit. Monahan is representing himself. The City Attorney is involved and filed motions to dismiss Schofer, Klein-Hewett, and the Ames Public Library since they are not part of IPIB or their decision making process. Schofer has been forwarding correspondences to the Board.
- There is a legislative meet and great scheduled on Saturday, February 15, 2025 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at the Nevada Public Library.

Ames Public Library Friends Foundation (APLFF) Report: No report to the Board.

- Myers was not at the APLFF meeting. Gibson is excused tonight.

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee presented the Slate as follows:

- President – Deb Gibson
- Vice President – Ben Rearick
- Secretary – Richard Johnson

Thorbs-Weber opened the floor to additional nominations. No additional nominations were received.

Board Education:

Schofer discussed community engagement ideas with the Board. Some ideas included attending Library, APLFF, and community programs and events like the book sales, Repair Cafes, League of Women Voters Programs, English Conversation Circle, Terrific Tuesdays, Pub Fiction, Senior Expo, Rock on Retirement, Farmer's Market, National Night Out, Juneteenth, the Mayor's Bike Ride, Bandshell concerts, open houses, etc. Dates for some events will be added to upcoming dates sent out with the Board packet.

Policy Review:

Records Retention: This policy was brought to the November 21, 2024 meeting for discussion and put on hold until the City completed their update to the City's Records Retention Policy. It was brought back to the Board last month for discussion. Several changes are recommended to reflect updates the City adopted by Resolution 24-6741 on December 17, 2024. The Board discussed the policy.

Moved by Reger, seconded by Gordillo, to approve the review of the Records Retention Policy as presented.

Vote on Motion: 5-0 (Thorbs-Weber abstained; Gibson, Johnson, and Mitchell-Conway excused). Approved unanimously. Resolution No. 2025-L006 adopted.

Display and Exhibit: Schofer introduced the policy. The Board discussed the policy. This policy will be reviewed by staff and brought back next month for action. The Board recommends adding the Expression of Concern policy link in the references.

Trustee Comments:

- Rearick – thank you everyone for the thoughtful discussion.
- Myers – stated she is under a lot of stress at work right now and appreciates the openness with everything that is going on. Thank you everyone.
- Reynolds – shared empathy with Myers as her husband is in a similar situation. She hopes Schofer feels supported by the Library Board. It's incredibly frustrating.
- Gordillo – thank you Schofer for handling this the best way possible. It's sad to have this in our community. It is a treat to be here. She just wants to second what Reynold's was saying. She would also like to show support, she's just not sure how to at this point. The Library does a lot more than what is being drawn at this point. He is being loud but we need other louder voices to show what the Library is about.
- Reger – ditto. He appreciates the transparency and trusts your judgement.
- Thorbs-Weber – thanked Schofer for keeping the Board abreast to things as they unfold. She likes the ideas of how the Board can be more active and believes it's good to be making more connections in the community for things such as this coming down the pipeline. This one person is the loudest even when they can be a minority.

Adjournment:

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Gordillo, to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Vote on Motion: 5-0 (Thorbs-Weber abstained; Gibson, Johnson, and Mitchell-Conway excused). Approved unanimously.

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Dale H. Ross Board Room.

 President	
 Melissa Johannes, Library Secretary	Brenda Thorbs-Weber, Board Secretary