

**Ames Public Library Board of Trustees  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
March 20, 2025**

The Ames Public Library (APL) Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, March 20, 2025, in the Dale H. Ross Board Room with Gibson, Gordillo, Johnson, Myers, Rearick, Reynolds, and Thorbs-Weber in attendance. Reger and Mitchell-Conway were 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 7:00 p.m.

**Consent Agenda:**

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

1. Election of Officers
  - a. Deb Gibson, President
  - b. Carolyn Myers, Vice President
  - c. Richard Johnson, Secretary
2. Resolution approving donations:
  - a. Ames Playmakers .....\$61.87
3. Motion approving minutes of the regular meeting February 13, 2025
4. Motion approving payment of claims 2/1/25 – 2/28/25

**Vote on Motion: 6-0 (Johnson abstained; Reger and Mitchell-Conway excused).  
Approved unanimously. Resolution No. 2025-L007 adopted.**

**Public Forum:** None

**Activity Reports:**

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

- Goldbeck distributed “Get the Scoop” newsletters to the Board.
- An open house is scheduled at the water plant on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Stash the Trash stream cleanup will take place on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Mayor and City Council Bike Ride will be on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 a.m. Bikers should gather in the west parking lot at 515 Clark Avenue.
- On Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Analytic Insight, hired to help develop a county-wide homelessness action plan, will be presenting the final plan to the community.
- The City Council property tax hearing is at 5:15 pm on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The City purchased the property at 2715 Dayton Avenue, the former Eagle’s Loft Early Learning Center, to repurpose into a new animal shelter.

- Community Climate Grants are available. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to organizations in Ames for projects or activities that meaningfully advance the Climate Action Plan by reducing energy use, encouraging low-emissions transportation, reducing waste, conserving water, etc. All organizations in Ames are eligible, including non-profits and businesses. A partial cost share is required.
- Youth mini-grants up to \$500 are available year-round for youth-led projects or initiatives related to the Climate Action Plan. Students in grades 12 and under are eligible to apply. Eligible projects could include, but are not limited to projects to encourage fellow students to walk or bike to school, plant trees or other native vegetation, waste reduction, recycling, composting initiatives, shared vegetable garden, reducing energy usage, etc. Projects must include an education and engagement component.
- The City has a podcast called “Ames in Focus” bringing you the inside scoop on City government programs, initiatives, and people from front line workers to the Mayor of Ames, each episode holds an informative conversation aimed to help you get in touch with the activities of Ames. These short episodes drop every Tuesday. They can be found by searching Ames in Focus.
- Lastly, Parks and Rec are going to be updating their rules and regulations. They will have opportunities for the public to weigh in on park rules, hours, micromobility use, usage of trails, etc. before the changes are made.

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

- Staff are busy with spring programs. Battle of the Books is coming up. There was a Summer Camp Fair last weekend that had to be held at the City gym because it was too large for our space. The Baby Fair is this weekend.
- We are applying for the John Cotton Dana Award for the 12 to Try Reading Challenge.
- We applied for the Ames Art Council Art in the Workplace award for the Vestibule.
- In staff news we have hired a new Customer Account Services Clerk who will start on April 3, 2025, to fill an opening in August of 2024. We are hiring two Youth Services Assistants. Next, we will recruit for the Volunteer Coordinator position. Volunteer Coordinator Bohlke is retiring April 1 after 20 years and Youth Services Assistant Philby is retiring April 4 after 9 years. Staff celebrated Philby's retirement early due to Battle of the Books. Celebrations with volunteers for Bohlke will take place March 31 and with staff on April 1.
- Mayor Haila will issue a proclamation for National Library Week at the beginning of the April 8<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- On Wednesday, April 9, at 4:00 p.m. we will have a ribbon cutting with Ames Regional Economic Alliance in the Adult Services area to celebrate the new carpet.
- On Thursday, April 10, county-wide library trustee training will begin at 6 p.m. The topic this year is artificial intelligence. Trustees can come to the PEO Room or may attend via Zoom.

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



- Luze has began conversations with REG and Mary Greeley regarding funding for the summer meals.
- The Holiday Campaign went well; the Spring Campaign will start in April.
- The Book Sales remain popular.
- Literary Grounds remains steady.
- There were some losses on investments.
- There are two new APLFF Board members.
- There will not be a meeting in April.

### **Board Education:**

Youth Services Manager Anderson introduced herself to the Board and gave a presentation about the annual Battle of the Books program. This year is the fifteenth year. 678 teams from 29 different central Iowa schools have competed since the start of the program. At the beginning of summer a list of 18 books is available for all fifth and sixth grade students. They can read throughout the summer up until the competition. The fifth grade battle is held the last week in March; the sixth grade battle is the first week in April. The kids compete in teams of four students in a trivia contest. The traveling trophy goes to the winning school for the year.

### **Policy Review:**

Display and Exhibit Spaces: This policy was brought to the Board last month for discussion and reviewed by staff. Recommended changes include adding the link to the Expression of Concerns Policy under References. The Board discussed the policy.

**Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Gordillo, to approve the revisions to the Display and Exhibit Spaces Policy as presented.**

**Vote on Motion: 6-0 (Johnson abstained; Reger and Mitchell-Conway excused). Approved unanimously. Resolution No. 2025-L008 adopted.**

Public Participation: 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 using “disrespectful” instead of impertinent and maybe define or remove “loud.”

### **New Business:**

Recognition of Retiring Trustees: Johnson presented a plaque to Rearick and thanked him for his thoughtful input, comments, and time. Rearick has been an engaged member who will be missed. Mitchell-Conway was not present to receive her plaque.

Discussion of the Director's evaluation:

**Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Myers, to enter into closed session in accordance with the provisions of Sections 21.5(1)(i) and 21.9, Code of Iowa, for the discussion of strategy in matters relating to employment.**

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

The meeting was closed at 7:56 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 8:32 p.m.

Approval of the Director's Salary:

The Board completed the Director's evaluation in closed session. The Board appreciates all of Schofer's work and the feedback they received during the evaluation process.

**Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Gordillo, to set the Director's salary effective July 1, 2025, at \$168,954 which is a 4.5% increase.**

**Vote on Motion: 6-0 (Johnson abstained; Reger and Mitchell-Conway excused). Approved unanimously. Resolution No. 2025-L009 adopted.**

**Trustee Comments:**

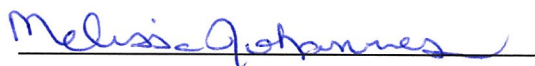
- Thorbs-Weber – in addition to doing a good job, she appreciates the listing of opportunities and events to go to.
- Myers – thinks Schofer is a wonderful advocate for Ames Public Library and intellectual freedom. We are dealing with a lot of adversity and stress. Schofer is doing an amazing job with it.
- Gordillo – appreciates the energy Schofer brings. They will affect the way we do things. Schofer tries not to focus on the ugly things but on all the wonderful things we still do. The Library gives so much life to the city.
- Rearick – thanked Schofer for all the work she does. He has been proud to be on the Board. Thank you to Johannes for always being prepared. The Mayor interviewed him and decided not to reappoint him. He would love to have stayed on the Board.
- Reynolds – thank you Schofer, and thank you Rearick
- Gibson – is thrilled Schofer is who she is and to see the evaluations, praise, and excitement; that feels validating. She received an email about a free Empowering Advocates webinar on April 10 from 1-2 p.m. that she will share with anyone interested. Thank you to Johnson for serving as President.
- Johnson - Thanks everyone, appreciate you coming.

**Adjournment:**

**Moved by Rearick, seconded by Myers, to adjourn at 8:46 p.m.**

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

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



Melissa Johannes, Library Secretary



Richard Johnson, Board Secretary



## Water Plant Open House

On Saturday, April 19, the Ames Water Treatment Plant, 1800 E. 13th St., will open its doors to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Those with mobility issues or who prefer a quieter environment can attend the modified open house from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

“Our great-tasting, high-quality drinking water has long been a source of community pride,” said John Dunn, Water and Pollution Control Director. “This event provides the opportunity to visit and learn more about Ames water.”

This isn't just any open house—it's an

interactive, educational, and fun-filled event designed for all ages. Highlights include public tours, displays and interactive engagements, kids' activities, and light refreshments.



## Stream Cleanup: Stash the Trash in April

The Resource Recovery Plant is facilitating the annual Stash the Trash community spring cleanup. A large trash receptacle roll-off will be available April 26-27 at Resource Recovery to encourage more participation. Stash the Trash is a volunteer initiative to improve the

appearance of the city and appropriately dispose of waste. Pick a park or green space to clean and bring your garbage to the drop site.

The annual Stream Cleanup is planned for Saturday, April 26, with a rain date of Saturday, May 3. Ames Public Works has partnered with Prairie Rivers of Iowa, Story County Conservation, and the Outdoor Alliance of Story County to hold this event. Look for more details at [www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartWatersheds](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartWatersheds).



## Homelessness Action Plan Presentation

On Monday, April 28 at 6:30 p.m., Analytic Insight, hired to help develop a county-wide homelessness action plan, will be

presenting the final plan to the community. This event is open to the public.

## Mayor and City Council Bike Ride

The annual Mayor and City Council Bike Ride will begin at Ames City Hall, 515 Clark Ave., at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 10. Bikers should gather in the west parking lot. Bicyclists of all ages and experience levels are welcome to join the ride. There

is no pre-registration necessary or cost to participate. Bike helmets are strongly encouraged. Watch the City of Ames website ([www.CityOfAmes.org](http://www.CityOfAmes.org)) for more information, a route map, and how to get involved!

## Calendar of Events

### Tuesday, March 25

- City Council meeting;  
6 p.m. at City Hall, 515 Clark

### Wednesday, March 26

- Hydrant flushing begins

### Tuesday, April 8

- City Council property tax hearing at 5:15 p.m. City Council meeting;  
6 p.m. at City Hall, 515 Clark

### Tuesday, April 15

- City Council Workshop at 6 p.m. at City Hall: Zoning Ordinance Update Scope

### Saturday, April 19

- Water Plant Open House, 1800 E. 13th Street
- Earth Day on the Airwaves (ISU/ City of Ames/KHOI collaboration)
- Ames Repair Café at the Ames Public Library

### Saturday, April 26

- No Charge Yard Waste Day
- Stream Cleanup
- Stash the Trash

### Monday, April 28

- Story County Homelessness Action Plan presentation at 6:30 p.m. at the Ames Public Library

### Saturday, May 10

- Mayor's Bike Ride

### Monday, May 12

- Bike to Work Week Breakfast

### Tuesday, May 13

- City Council meeting;  
6 p.m. at City Hall, 515 Clark

### Saturday, May 22

- Furman Aquatic Center opens for the season



# 15<sup>Years of</sup> BATTLE OF THE BOOKS



678

Number of teams  
that have competed  
since 2010



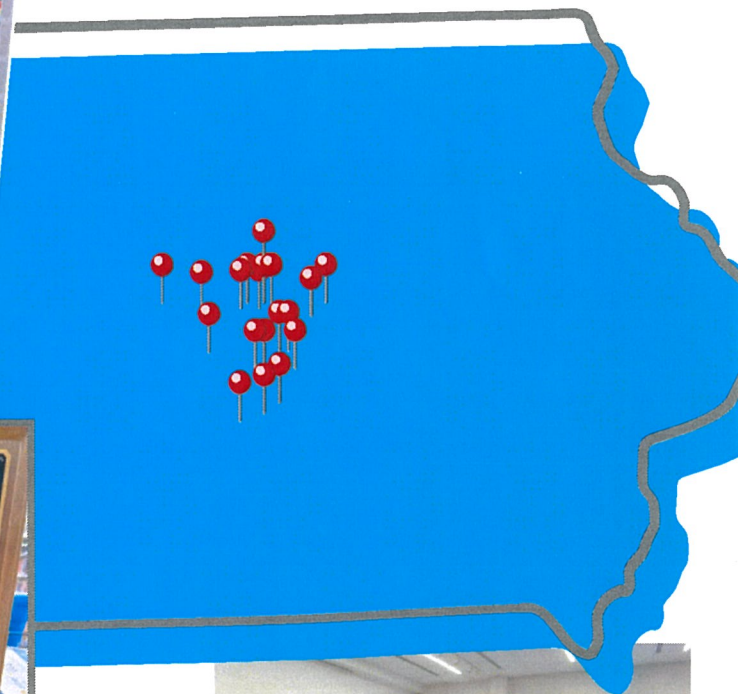
206

Number of  
different titles used  
since 2010



29

Number of different  
central Iowa schools  
participating since  
2010



This year: 14

2

Traveling plaques  
for the winning  
teams to showcase  
at their school



1

Amazing  
experience for kids  
that they  
remember forever!

