

# MINUTES OF THE MARY J. BARNETT MEMORIAL LIBRARY

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 23, 2026

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### **\*\*Board Meeting Minutes\*\***

#### **\*\*Members Present:\*\***

- Steve Bascom
- Lacy Hall
- Karen Kelly, Library Aide
- Becky Carico
- Library Director Jerri Hawkins via phone
- Dale Menning
- Brandon Monaghan

#### **\*\*Call to Order:\*\***

The regular meeting of the Board was called to order by President Bascom at 5:54 p.m.

#### **\*\*Approval of Minutes:\*\***

Menning moved to approve the minutes from the February 23, 2026, meeting. The motion was seconded by Hall and carried unanimously.

#### **\*\*Financial Report:\*\***

Bascom motioned to approve the financial report as presented. Carico seconded the motion, which passed without opposition.

#### **\*\*Director/Staff Reports:\*\***

Director Jerri Hawkins provided an update on library statistics and events:

The Friends of the GC Library's next meeting is scheduled for 6:15 p.m. on April 6, 2026. February programs included 61 attendees for the Bridge and Cribbage groups, five participants in the afternoon book club, and 14 in the evening book club. The Card Making Club had 10 attendees while Craft & Connect had 27 for the month; the Cookbook Club had five participants. The Friday Story Hour attracted 32 attendees in the month of February. Attendance for Youth STEM programs included five for LEGO Mania and nine for Creation Corner. On Friday, February 13, Cass read stories to two classes at the Guthrie Center Elementary Preschool at 9:30 a.m.

For the fiscal year to date, in SILO 266, items were borrowed, and 202 were loaned. Libby/Bridges reported 4,286 total checkouts, including audiobooks, e-books, and magazines. FY26 YTD circulation is 9,258 with renewal and auto-renewal. We have added 9 new patrons and had 22 renewals to bring the total number of patrons to 1,503.

#### **Director Notes:**

Hawkins notified the board that that the library had been awarded the \$10,000 ALA LTC Round 4 grant. The grant was written for furnishings in the Taylor Meeting Room and library, but is subject to modification following the required community conversation. A new program, Canasta, is being added during April.

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### **\*\*Unfinished Business:\*\***

- Members discussed the fact that they need to amend the strategic five year plan as over half of the goals have been achieved. Members will continue to craft new ideas to add to the plan at the next meeting.
- Two proposals for the exterior landscaping project were reviewed and considered. The board decided that at the April 6 Friends of the Guthrie Center Library meeting, they would like to invite Nate Jensen and Nick Jensen of Lakeside Landscaping to attend to discuss proposed landscaping improvements.
- There was brief discussion about Library Services during RAGBRAI. It was decided to revisit this topic after a more complete event's schedule has been released.

### **\*\*New Business:\*\***

- A joint training for the Library Board and City Council by the Iowa Library Consultant regarding library budgeting and laws was proposed. Bascom will discuss this with other stakeholders.

### **\*\*Agenda Items for Next Meeting:\*\***

- Updates to the Strategic Plan
- Landscaping and grounds improvements
- RAGBRAI and library services
- Budget Training

### **\*\*Adjournment:\*\***

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for April 27, at 6:00 p.m.

### **\*\*Recording Secretaries:\*\***

Jerri Hawkins and Karen Kelly