

MINUTES OF THE MARY J. BARNETT MEMORIAL LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

September 28, 2026

****Board Meeting Minutes****

****Members Present:****

Steven Bascom Becky Carico Dale Menning
Lacy Hall Brandon Monaghan
Karen Kelly, Library Aide Jerri Hawkins, Library Director

****Call to Order:****

The regular meeting of the Board was called to order by President Steven Bascom at 5:51 PM.

****Approval of Minutes:****

Dale Menning moved to approve the minutes from the August 24, 2026 meeting. Lacy Hall seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

****Financial Report:****

Hall moved to approve the financial report as presented. Brandon Monaghan 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 are scheduled to meet at 6:00 PM on Monday, October 5, 2026.
- August programs included:
 - 76 attendees for the Bridge and Cribbage groups
 - 7 participants in the afternoon book club
 - 15 in the evening book club
 - 21 patrons in Canasta
 - 8 attendees in the Card Making Club
 - 15 in Craft & Connect
 - 5 participants in the Cookbook Club
 - 28 attendees at the Friday Story Hour
 - 20 attended the ALA LTC Community Conversation

Total attendance for Youth STEM programs was 7 for LEGO Mania, with 1 participant recorded for Creation Corner.

For the fiscal year to date, in the SILO system, 52 items were borrowed and 65 items loaned. The Libby/Bridges platform reported 1,042 total checkouts, encompassing audiobooks, e-books, and magazines for FY27. Fiscal year-to-date circulation totals 2,222, including renewals and auto-renewals.

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The library gained 8 new patrons and recorded 18 renewals, bringing the total number of patrons to 1,537.

****Director's Notes:****

Director Hawkins reported that she will be attending the ILA Conference scheduled for October 7-9 in Cedar Rapids. The theme for the Festival of Trees will be "Merry Christmas, America 250." Planning is underway for the Li-BOO-ary Bash, Festival of Trees, and the Summer Reading Program for 2027, titled "Reading Expands Our Universe." Grant research has commenced, and the Iowa Public Library General Information Survey is due by October 31, 2026. Additionally, Hawkins discussed the proposed priorities of the Friends of the Library fundraising and vision planning committee.

****Unfinished Business:****

Dr. Basom reported that the Library Board is on the city council agenda to present the yearly library report on October 12, 2026, at 6:30.

****New Business:****

The board discussed details for the GCLA meeting, which followed the board meeting.

****Public Presentations:****

There were no public presentations.

****Agenda Items for Next Meeting:****

The agenda will include a review of the strategic plan, budget planning for FY 28, and City Council wrap-up.

****Adjournment:****

The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

****Recording Secretaries:****

Jerri Hawkins and Karen Kelly