

MINUTES OF THE MARY J. BARNETT MEMORIAL LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 27, 2026

****Board Meeting Minutes****

****Members Present:****

- Steve Bascom
- Becky Carico
- Dale Menning
- Lacy Hall
- Brandon Monaghan
- Diane Flanery, Friends of Library Pres.
- Karen Kelly, Library Aide
- Library Director Jerri Hawkins

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

The regular meeting of the Board was called to order by President Bascom at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

****Financial Report:****

Bascom motioned to approve the financial report as presented. 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's next meeting is scheduled for 6:15 p.m. on Monday, May 4, 2026. March programs included 65 attendees for the Bridge and Cribbage groups, 5 participants in the afternoon book club, and 8 in the evening book club. Nine patrons participated in the Peeps Diorama Contest. The Card Making Club had ten attendees, while Craft & Connect had twenty-five for the month; the Cookbook Club had eight participants. The Friday Story Hour attracted 45 attendees in the month of March. Attendance for Youth STEM programs included seven for LEGO Mania and eight for Creation Corner. On Friday, March 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 309 items were borrowed, and 230 were loaned. Libby/Bridges reported 4,449 total checkouts, including audiobooks, e-books, and magazines. FY26 YTD circulation is 10,474 with renewal and auto-renewal. We have added 7 new patrons and had 19 renewals to bring the total number of patrons to 1,507.

Director Notes:

Hawkins notified the board of upcoming programs, including the itinerary for the Summer Reading Program, "Plant a seed, Read."

****Unfinished Business:****

- Members discussed ongoing work on the strategic plan updates. Finalization has been tabled until after RAGBAI.

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- It was decided not to pursue a joint training for the library board and the city council by the Iowa State Library District Consultant regarding library budgeting and laws at this time.
- Exterior library improvements were discussed, including work that has been done by library staff with the butterfly garden. Friends President Diane Flanery shared the Friends' group's discussion regarding repainting the book sculpture outside the building, as well as landscaping ideas. Menning moved to accept the Friend's plan to repaint the book sculpture. Hall seconded, and the motion carried. Carico moved to approve the Friend's plan to move forward, working with the Lakeside Landscaping plan that Flanery shared with the board. Menning seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.
- There was a brief discussion about Library Services during RAGBRAI and what Friends of the Library has planned for RAGBRAI.

****New Business:****

- Board members will read Chapter 5 of the Trustee Handbook for review and discussion at the May meeting.
- The Board agreed to change the date of the next board meeting to May 18, as the regular date is on the Memorial Day Holiday.

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

- Discuss Chapter 5 of the Trustee Handbook.
- RAGBRAI and library services

****Adjournment:****

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for May 18, at 6:00 p.m.

****Recording Secretaries:****

Jerri Hawkins and Karen Kelly