

MINUTES OF THE MARY J. BARNETT MEMORIAL LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 24, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board was called to order at 6:04 p.m. on March 24, 2025, by President Steve Bascom. The members present were Steve Bascom, Becky Carico, Lacey Hall, Dale Menning, Marcia Priestley, Library Director Jerri Hawkins, and Library Staff member Karen Kelly.

Hall moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 24, 2025; Priestley seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Bascom motioned to approve the financial report as presented, with Menning seconding the motion. The motion carried.

DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORTS:

Director Jerri Hawkins provided a report on recent statistics to the board. The Friends of the GC Library held their last meeting on Monday, March 3, at 6:15 p.m. Plans for the June 14 Golf Tournament are underway. The Bridge and Cribbage groups have had a total of 52 attendees so far this month. The Book Club met on Tuesday, March 11, with six participants. The Card Making Club was held on Thursday, March 20, in the morning, with five attendees, and the Cookbook Club met in the evening on March 20, with five and eight participants, respectively. Friday Story Hour had 38 attendees in February and 35 so far in March. Upcoming events include an evening Book Club on March 25, which had 17 attendees in February. For SILO FY25 Fiscal Year to Date (YTD), the library borrowed 135 items and loaned 192. Libby/Bridges checkouts for FYTD total 3,821 (with 1,940 audiobooks, 1,237 e-books, and 644 magazines). Advantage titles include 92 audiobooks and 18 e-books. The library's circulation for the year to date (excluding autorenewal) is 7,772. We have added six new patrons and had two renewals, bringing the total to 1,522 patrons.

Jerri and Karen attended the STEM Fair 2025 training on March 10, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. in Avoca. As a result of their experience at the STEM Fair, the library will begin regular after-school STEM programs, which will include LEGO Mania, Creation Corner, the Guthrie STEM Lab, and a youth movie afternoon.

The staff is also preparing for the Summer Reading Program in June. The MJB Library was awarded a \$10,000 grant from Round 3 of the ALA LTC Grant, but did not receive a grant from Penguin Publishing. They have applied for the Dollar General Summer Reading grant and are awaiting a response. The Director plans to complete the Dollar General Youth Literacy Grant application and is exploring a Roy Carver Grant for physical improvements to the library building.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The board discussed the FY26 Budget and the timeline for the \$10,000 ALA LTC grant. The library will hold the required community conversation to discuss the allocation of the grant funds. The current proposal is to upgrade tables and chairs in the Taylor meeting room to make them safer and more usable for older and/or physically challenged patrons.

NEW BUSINESS

All Board members completed training, which included reading chapters 1 and 2 of the Trustee Handbook. They engaged in a discussion about key points from these chapters and addressed any questions.

The board was informed of two upcoming programs offered by the library. At 4:00 p.m. on May 7, author Ann Hanigan Kotz will discuss Iowa's history of prohibition and bootlegging, centered around her book *Moonshine by Moonlight*. Enfy's McMurry will speak on Saturday, May 17, at 11:00 a.m. regarding her Pulitzer Prize-nominated book *Disaster at 39,000 Feet*, which covers the 1962 airplane crash in Centerville, IA.

The board agreed to move their May meeting to May 19 to accommodate the Memorial Day holiday.

****AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING:**** The board training will cover Chapters 3 and 4 of the Trustee Handbook.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m. The next board meeting will be held on Monday, April 28, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Jerri Hawkins and Karen Kelly, Recording Secretaries