

Fort Dodge Public Library Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2025

I. Call to order/Roll Call

President Merrily Dixon called to order the regular meeting of the Fort Dodge Public Library Board of Trustees at 3:30 p.m. on March 24, 2025 at the Fort Dodge Public Library.

The following persons were present: Rita Schmidt (Director), Alexis Powers (Staff), Kay Eldredge (LA II), Jessica Coon (LA II), Merrily Dixon, Brittney Hindman, Sheryl Griffith, and James Kramer.

II. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Kramer and seconded by Griffith. Motion carried.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the February meeting minutes was made by Griffith and seconded by Kramer. Motion carried.

IV. Comments/Questions from the Public

V. Bills and Financial Reports

- a. Dixon moved payments in the amount of \$1,460.04 to be approved in the Gift and Memorial Accounts. Griffith seconded. Motion carried.
- b. Kramer moved payments in the amount of \$5,231.44 to be approved in the City Funds Accounts. Griffith seconded. Motion carried.

VI. Communications/Board Education

- a. Employee Introduction – Full-Time LA IIs
 1. Kay discussed her coverage of all service desks, multiple copies request duties, and cataloging duties, as well as her education background. She has been with the library since September 1986.
 2. Jessica discussed her duties in the Children's Department, cataloging duties, coverage of service desks, and her education.
- b. Legislative Update – House File 521 would repeal the obscenity exemption for libraries. Kramer expressed his concerns on the interpretations of the definition of obscenity and the access to information should this pass. Schmidt walked through the Expression of Concern policy process as a reminder. House File 880 would change the eligibility of libraries that are members of ILA and ALA to no longer receive state funding. FDPL currently receives about \$10,000.00 in state funding but does not currently hold a membership to either entity. The recent executive order to dismantle the Institute of Museum and Library Services could impact services at the library. The State Library of Iowa relies on funding from IMLS to pay for the IA Shares courier service, the Bridges platform fees, and the Brainfuse HelpNow resources, just to name a few. If these are cut at the state level it could impact the library's ability to offer these resources.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Friends of the Library – Brown Bag Briefings begin April 3rd and the book sale will start April 28th. The Friends are looking for new members. The book store has made approximately \$12,000.00 so far this year.

VIII. Director's Report

Budget

- The Foundation allocation for the year is \$126,290.32.
- Schmidt submitted a \$50,000.00 grant request to the Deardorf Foundation.

Programming/Services

- Advantage Archives has completed digitizing 232 of the Messenger microfilm rolls.
- Schmidt will speak at the Noon Rotary club meeting on March 31st.
- "Kate!" the one-woman musical will take place on April 2nd at noon.
- For National Library week (April 6th-April 12th) the library will post a trivia question for a prize and ask patrons to share their favorite library memory.

Building

- Woodman Controls has made some repairs to the humidifiers but are waiting on parts. Some parts were discontinued so repairs are not guaranteed to last. The next step will be replacement.
- Public Areas installed a dog waste station on the South side of the building.

Personnel

- Four candidates were interviewed for the Youth Services Librarian position. Schmidt still needs to meet with HR to finalize numbers before making an offer.
- There were 10 application received for the Adult Services Librarian position.
- Laurie's last day was March 20th. A retirement proclamation will be presented at tonight's city council meeting.

Miscellaneous

- The library recently trespassed an individual whose behavior had become problematic.
- Due to the Frontier Days Parade route and road closures on Saturday, June 7th the library will need to be closed.

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

XI. Adjournment

Griffith moved a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Hindman. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.