

Fort Dodge Public Library Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

May 27, 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 3:34 p.m. on May 27, 2025 at the Fort Dodge Public Library.

The following persons were present: Rita Schmidt (Director), Alexis Powers (Staff), Sue Messerly (LA I), Merrily Dixon, Brittney Hindman, Sheryl Griffith and Deb Kelleher.

II. Approval of Agenda

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

III. Approval of Minutes

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

IV. Comments/Questions from the Public

V. Bills and Financial Reports

- a. Kelleher moved payments in the amount of \$2,558.26 to be approved in the Gift and Memorial Accounts. Griffith seconded. Motion carried.
- b. Griffith moved payments in the amount of \$9,208.81 to be approved in the City Funds Accounts. Kelleher seconded. Motion carried.

VI. Communications/Board Education

- a. Employee Introduction – Part-Time LA I
 1. Sue discussed her various duties working at the circulation desk, the coloring program, Books on the Go and decorating the display case.
- b. Iowa Public Libraries FY24 Statistics – There are some decreases but they have been seen statewide for the most part. Hoopla is not included in the collection amounts. The differences between hoopla and Libby were discussed.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Friends of the Library – There are 4 new board members but they are still looking for 3 more. The book sale made about \$2006 and the book store made \$782 that week. Monday night they had 20 new memberships (14 single, 6 family) with 40 people attending. There were 160 attendees for the April Brown Bag meetings.

VIII. Director's Report

Programming/Services

- The Summer Reading Programs kick off June 2nd.
- The Iowa Adventure Pass program has sent out information on the new marketing materials. The new site is more user friendly and should be ready before June.

Building

- The main drain for the sprinkler system will be replaced by Viking Sprinkler Co.

Remodel/Renovation

- David Vinjamuri was here May 12th & May 13th to conduct the space audit of our building. We should have his final report by sometime Mid-July. There will be suggestions for the renovation and ideas to implement now.

State Library News

- Schmidt signed the Enrich Iowa paperwork for FY26.
- The State Library will be discontinuing funding of the tutoring resource BrainFuse HelpNow as of June 30th. FDPL may purchase the resource on its own.
- IAShares, the free statewide delivery service, will be cut to one delivery day instead of two.
- The statistics for Iowa public library for FY24 were published.

Budget

- Schmidt is working with Jamie to determine what the best option is for reducing our budget by \$51,000 for FY26 since we still have some unknowns with all of our staff changes.
- The library received notice from the Deardorf Foundation in early May that they were able to fund \$25,000 of our \$50,000 request this year.

Personnel

- Bill Westin has been hired as our new custodian.
- Schmidt offered Anastasia Peratopoulos the Youth Services Librarian position and she has accepted. She will start hopefully in late June.

Miscellaneous

- The library will be closed Thursday morning, May 29th for staff training. We will be reviewing safety/security procedures, important policies, and information on the summer reading programs.
- Schmidt will renew her term on the Ann Smeltzer Charitable Trust Board of Trustees.

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

XI. Adjournment

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