

**Ames Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
February 15, 2024**

The Ames Public Library (APL) Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, February 15, 2024, in the Dale H. Ross Board Room with Crain, Gibson, Johnson, Mitchell-Conway, Myers, Reger, Reynolds (7:16pm), and Torres III in attendance. Thorbs-Weber was excused. Director Schofer and citizen Rearick were also in attendance.

Call to Order: Vice President Myers called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Consent Agenda:

Moved by Crain, seconded by Reger, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Motion approving minutes of the regular meeting January 18, 2024
2. Motion approving payment of claims 1/1/24 – 1/31/24

**Vote on Motion: 6-0 (Myers abstained; Reynolds and Thorbs-Weber excused).
Approved unanimously.**

Public Forum: None

Activity Reports:

Administrative Staff Report: Schofer gave a report to the Board.

- Schofer and Anderson gave a budget presentation to City Council on February 5, 2024. The Council was engaged and supportive and asked questions about the partnership with the Ames Public Schools.
- The new Assistant City Manager, Goldbeck, met with Schofer and toured the library. She will be the liaison for the Library as Schildroth previously was.
- There has been a lot of good press recently.
 - The Ames Tribune recently did an article on the Library being fine free.
 - Iowa State Daily did a piece on the Speed Friending program.
 - Klein-Hewett did a talk show on barriers to technology.
- Staff day is February 19. There will be an update on the budget, a strategic planning staff engagement piece, and breakout sessions before an afternoon of workgroup meetings.
- There are several programs coming up including Mental Health First Aid, a baby fair, and a summer camp fair.

Reynolds arrived at 7:15 pm and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Ames Public Library Friends Foundation (APLFF) Report: Gibson gave a report to the Board.

- APLFF will be switching to Donor Perfect for donor tracking software. There will be a Zoom onboarding meeting soon.
- They are looking into refreshing the logo and website.
- They are discussing removing “Friends” from the Ames Public Library Friends Foundation name.

- Luze met with REG last week and will be sending in a grant request for the summer meal program.
- Money is coming in from the Raygun t-shirt sales. APLFF receives \$10 from every library shirt sold.
- The spring donor letter will be mailed right before National Library Week.
- The next booksale will be in March.

Nominating Committee: Reger and Thorbs-Weber met via Zoom the beginning of January to discuss the slate for the Executive Committee. Thorbs-Weber did the bulk of the work contacting the individuals to gauge their willingness to accept the roles.

The Nominating Committee presents the Slate as follows:

- Richard Johnson, President
- Deb Gibson, Vice President
- Matt Crain, Secretary

Reynolds opened the floor to additional nominations. No additional nominations received.

Board Education: Schofer presented on advocacy. A link to the recent Board Advocacy Zoom session was shared with trustees prior to the Board meeting. The Board discussed the Bill Tracker tool and advocacy guidelines.

Policy Review:

Art: This policy was brought to the Board last month for discussion. No changes are recommended; the underline under the semicolon will be removed. The Board discussed the policy.

Moved by Myers, seconded by Gibson, to approve the review of the Art Policy as presented.

**Vote on Motion: 6-0 (Reger and Reynolds abstained; Thorbs-Weber excused).
Approved unanimously. Resolution No. 2024-L003 adopted.**

Bylaws Board of Trustees: Schofer introduced the policy. The Board discussed the policy. This policy will be sent to the City Legal Department for review and brought back next month for action. No changes are expected.

New Business:

Agreement with the Ames Public Library Friends Foundation: Myers, as a representative on both the Ames Public Library Friends Foundation Board and the Ames Public Library Board, introduced the proposed changes to the agreement that the APL Board approved last month. Ames Public Library Friends Foundation is a 501.c3. They are the sole owner of their funds and assets. The Library requests funding support from APLFF after APL Board approval. It is at the APLFF's discretion to approve the funding request after determining the extent to which its fundraising is feasible within the community. It is not the APLFF's role to attempt to define the needs of the Library. The agreement outlines the relationship between the Ames Public Library and the Ames Public Library Friends Foundation. The recommended changes clarify wording in the aged document. The proposed changes will

be sent to the Legal Department for review. The agreement will be brought back to the Board for action after legal feedback has been received.

Trustee Comments:

- Reynolds – apologized for the late arrival and appreciates Myers stepping in to start the meeting.
- Johnson – it’s good to be here. He was intrigued by the Speed Friending program and mentioned it to few friends. He would like to give a gold star to Reynolds for using the word “behooves” in a normal conversation. He is happy to be here with everyone.
- Gibson – appreciates all Schofer and Mitchell-Conway have been able to do, spreading the word, going to Des Moines, the Bill Tracker, reading, etc. She will pay more attention to the Bill Tracker.
- Mitchell-Conway – lawyers, Hooray.
- Reger – it’s good to be back after missing the last couple of meetings due to family and Christmas priorities. He shared that Johannes had purchased large print books from the booksale to replace the shelves of small print books with large print books for the residents at Bethany Life in Story City to enjoy.
- Torres III – apologized for being gone. It’s super cool to hear about the legislation and he’s happy to get back up to speed. It looks like a good group of people will be stepping into the Executive Committee roles.
- Crain – thanked Schofer for the legislation work. It’s nice to see all the support for libraries.
- Myers – thank you everyone for all the great work. Thank you to Schofer and Mitchell-Conway for going down to the capital. Myers also added “it’s fine to be late; life happens.”

Adjournment:

Moved by Myers, seconded by Mitchell-Conway, to adjourn at 8:09 pm.

Vote on Motion: 7-0 (Reynolds abstained; Thorbs-Weber excused). Approved unanimously.

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Dale H. Ross Board Room.


Melissa Johannes, Library Secretary


Richard Johnson, Board Secretary