



WATERLOO PUBLIC LIBRARY—Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes—March 13, 2025—12:00 PM—Meeting Room A/B
Submitted by Bethany Nelson

Members present: Cindy Wells, Larry Bjortomt, Lynn LaGrone, Emily Hanson, John Berry
Members absent:
Others present: David Eckert, Becky Miller, Jillian Rutledge, Amy Rousselow, Bethany Nelson, Carolyn Sallis
Council Liaisons: Dave Boesen, Rob Nichols (on Zoom)

- I. **Call to Order**—the regular meeting of the Waterloo Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order by President Cindy Wells at 12:02 PM.
- II. **Approve Agenda**—*Motion by Lynn LaGrone, second by John Berry to approve the agenda as presented.* Motion carried.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**—*Motion by Larry Bjortomt, second by John Berry to approve the February 13, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes as presented.* Motion carried.
- IV. **Financials**
 - A. Updates—David reported nothing unexpected.
 - B. *Motion by Emily Hanson, second by John Berry to approve payment for the February 2025 regular and gift bills as presented.* Motion carried.
- V. **Statistical/Usage Report**—David reported growth in youth program numbers and a decline in checkouts for downloadable materials.
- VI. **Director's Report**
 - A. Informational Updates
 1. Grants Update—David reported on the remaining grants funds and recent grant awards to finalize the youth and teen renovation project. This includes a pending request of \$15,000 from the Guernsey Foundation and \$25,000 recently awarded from the Pauline R. Barrett Charitable Foundation. Amy and David plan to apply for additional funds from the Van G. Miller Family Charitable Foundation. They did not receive a grant from their application to the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa. The Friends of the Library has also contributed \$20,000 towards the project. Discussion then shifted to the overall state of the renovation project. Dave Boesen asked if the library expects the quotes for the remaining projects to increase. David said no and that there is a contingency built into the budgets for remaining work of 15% if increases should happen. He also stated that we could pull from the furniture budget if needed. John Berry asked about the remaining total of the project, which Amy confirmed to be \$157,000 for all options remaining. Emily Hanson asked about fundraising outside of grants. David and Amy reported on the success of the Youth Wishlist Campaign to fill in items

through private donations. Discussion on CIP funds and the state of granting organizations followed.

2. Legislative Update—David reported that two bills were still alive that could potentially hurt libraries. One would take away Enrich Iowa funding from libraries who pay for ILA or ALA memberships. The other is an obscenity bill that would allow individuals to sue the library for owning materials they believe to be obscene. Even if the individual lost the lawsuit, the City would still have to pay legal bills to defend the library. David met with the managers to begin working on a plan forward if this bill is successful, focused on age-restricted cards. General discussion followed.
3. Miscellaneous—David has begun the process of gathering information and proposals from strategic planning firms. He will bring more information to a future meeting.

B. Collective Department Report—included in the packet. No questions raised.

C. Referred for Board Action

1. Travel—*Motion by Lynn LaGrone, second by John Berry to approve the listed travel.* Motion carried.
 - a. Jillian Rutledge & Becky Miller, *Mental Health First Aid*, April 4, 2025, Des Moines with City vehicle, \$0
2. Review Confidentiality Policy—*Motion by Emily Hanson, second by Lynn LaGrone to approve the revised policy.* Motion carried.
3. Review Meeting Room Policy—*Motion by Emily Hanson, second by John Berry to approve the revised policy.* Motion carried.
4. Approve Closure for Labor Management Training—*Motion by Emily Hanson, second by Lynn LaGrone to approve a future closure for training.* Motion carried.
 - a. Cindy and David spoke to Carolyn about this training. The date is not set yet but will be worked out between management and union representation.

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. Advocacy Update (Cindy Wells)—Cindy reported that she and Billie Bailey went to the Iowa capital building and met with Pat Grassley. She stated it was a good meeting where they presented the information they've gathered on the specific negative impacts of the levy changes from 30 organizations. She also highlighted their concerns with lack of transparency, which seemed to resonate most with Rep. Grassley. Dave Boesen asked for clarification on what non-transparency they discussed. Cindy clarified it was largely surrounding the City's use of the Library's levy reserves. Discussion on this issue followed. John Berry asked if it was possible to have Bridgett Wood, Head of Finance, come speak to the Board to provide clarity on the levy reserves and their use. David will ask.

B. L/M Communication

1. February 13, 2025 Minutes were included in the packet. No questions raised.

VIII. New Business

- A. None.

IX. **Next Meeting Date**—April 10, 2025 at Noon.

X. **Adjournment**—*Motion by Lynn LaGrone, second by John Berry.* Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:14 PM.