



November 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Burlington Public Library was called to order by President Becky Godfrey, Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 4:35 p.m. in Meeting Room A. Board members Becky Godfrey, Don Schmidgall, Mary Weinand, Jennifer McMillan, Brandon Orth, Roger Hatteberg, Amanda Mansheim, and Library Director Brittany Jacobs were present. Friends Liaison Anita Wagner, West Burlington Liaison Rebecca Teater (attended electronically via zoom), Mediapolis Library Director Ali Iserman, library staff Sara Garland, Kathy Gerling, Lois Blythe and Sam Watson were also in attendance. Notification for this meeting was sent to KBUR/KGRS, KCPS, KKMI, and WIUM radio stations and The Hawk Eye, on November 13, 2024.

Roger Hatteberg moved the Board to approve the agenda for this meeting and the minutes from the last meeting. Second by Brandon Orth; motion approved unanimously.

#### **Communication, Correspondence, & Public Address**

The Mediapolis Library Director, Ali Iserman, was in attendance to observe the meeting.

Roger Hatteberg talked about an article that appeared in the November 2 edition of The Hawk Eye newspaper about a middle school librarian, Amanda Jones, and her World Literature Week presentation in Iowa City talking about her experience with a banned books situation in her hometown. There was further discussion about the many books removed from Florida and Iowa schools.

#### **Board Training**

##### **a. Meet Me at the Library: Chapters 2 & 3**

- Board discussion of chapters 2 and 3. Discussed the importance of having a welcoming, diverse and inclusive environment. Roger mentioned how our library is already practicing these – especially the inclusivity with offering programs to patrons of all ages.
- Brittany mentioned the connectedness initiative on Iowa History through the Human Library Project, coming in spring of 2025.

#### **Expenditures**

Roger Hatteberg moved the Board to approve expenditures. Second by Amanda Mansheim; motion approved unanimously.

#### **West Burlington Liaison**

No update.

#### **Friends Liaison**

Anita Wagner briefed the Board. Their holiday book sale starts Wednesday November 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00.

#### **Presidents Report**

Becky thanked the Board for their time and attendance at the city council meetings.

**Board Committees**

**Advocacy Committee**

- They will meet later this week to discuss several goals for the next few months, including March 4<sup>th</sup> referendum support.

**Finance Committee**

- They will meet later this week.

**Use Statistics**

- Discussed stats and how the community is using the library.
- Discussed the increasing expense of Hoopla and how we may need to downsize from “6” downloads per month to “3” downloads per month.

**New Business**

**a. Policy Update: Distribution & Display**

- Will push vote to next month due to comments received from city lawyer today. This will give the Board a chance to look over the proposed changes.
- Brittany updated the Board that she is part of a FOIA/open records request regarding SF496.

**b. FY26 Budget Proposal**


- Brittany discussed the proposed budget. We are voting on a baseline budget carrying over last year’s numbers with few increases. The library staff will soon be going to a different email service as the State will no longer be offering email services to libraries.
- Alliant recently announced a 12% increase in the electric bill.
- Valuations should come in mid-December. The city will know more about the forecasted budget when those valuations come in.

Jennifer McMillan moved the Board to approve the proposed budget as presented. Second by Roger Hatteberg; motion approved unanimously.

Lois will discuss the Five Laws of Library Science at next month’s board meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Don Schmidgall moved the meeting to be adjourned at 5:45 p.m. Second by Roger Hatteberg; motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Brittany Jacobs,  
Library Director