

Minutes / Meeting of the Board of Trustees /Waverly Public Library
Tuesday 12 August 2025 / Bremer Room

Board members present: Diana Blake, Ross Helgevold, Jim Janssen, Erin Jones, Elaine Main, Deanna McCue, Michael Sherer, Bob Wharram. Also present: Sarah Meyer (Library Director), Steve Main (Friends of the Library), and Ann Rathe (City Council). Absent: James Perry.

1. **Call to order** at 5:17 p.m. by President *Blake*.
2. **Agenda.** Accepted as presented.
3. **Minutes.** Unanimous approval of minutes from the previous meeting. Moved by *Janssen*.
4. **Financials.** *Meyer* highlighted several items needing elucidation. The Financials were approved per standing resolution.
5. **Strategic Planning Process for 2026-2031.** *Blake*: would a five-year plan be too long, given the rapid change in current culture? *Main*: If goals are broad enough, they should last. *Meyer*: No problem would arise if flexibility is maintained. She indicated a second offer has been received (\$4,000 vs. the original \$20,000 plus). *Wharram*: What difference should we expect in results between \$4,000 and \$20,000? *Blake*: P&P should deal with that question. *Jones*: Since the next plan won't involve building construction, a lower cost could be justified. *Janssen*: The board's role in goal-setting should be big-picture, the staff's more hands-on. *Meyer*: There is a July 2026 deadline to have a plan in place; approval is needed by February; a decision in September would be good timing. *Janssen*: There would be merit in closing the library for one or more days and letting the staff do "in-service" strategizing.
6. **Make Room for Renewal.** Final report on the Make Room for Renewal capital campaign. *Meyer* highlighted financials shared with city council, using selected slides from a presentation council received. *McCue* displayed additional slides. *Sherer*: *McCue*'s video production is impressive.
7. **Summer Reading Program 2025.** *Meyer*: There were 142 events this summer with 3,216 participants. The program was a great success.
8. **Other reports.** *Meyer* circulated a summary of staff input sharing success stories in their areas of responsibility. **Building & Grounds:** *Jones* reported a replacement is being sought for retiring building supervisor Shane Pothast. *Wharram*: Spending \$300,000 for a library garage doesn't make sense. The city garage has

no room for library use. The exploration continues. *Foundation:* McCue reported a 4% average return on investment this past year. *Friends of the Library:* Steve Main described a variety of programs the Friends support to benefit the library. Last year's Friends budget was \$27,300 (of which approximately half was spent.)

9. **Director's report.** Meyer informed the board of a meeting held the previous day between selected staff, board members and five parents from the community concerned about young patrons viewing inappropriate content on library computers. The session was cordial and the parents, seemed appreciative of the opportunity to voice their concerns. Janssen, who was present, joined Meyer in explaining that libraries do not filter content available to patrons and that safety cannot be guaranteed when individuals view on-line material. The visitors were informed that other libraries deal with an identical situation. Meyer indicated she and her staff are open to further conversation with community patrons, should it be desired.

10. **Adjournment** at 6:45 p.m.

Michael Sherer, Secretary