

Minutes / Meeting of the Board of Trustees / Waverly Public Library
Tuesday 14 October 2025 / Council Chamber, Waverly City Hall

Board members present: Diana Blake, Erin Jones, Elaine Main, Steve Main (Friends of the Library), Deanna McCue, Sarah Meyer (library director), Michael Sherer, Angie Wessel. Also participating: Trevor Krug, Library Staff.

Absent: Jim Janssen, James Perry, Bob Wharram

1. **Call to order** at 5:15 p.m. by President *Blake*.
2. **Minutes** were accepted as read.
3. **Agenda** was approved as proposed and presented.
4. **Financials.** September financials report approved per standing resolution. *Main* noted ongoing concerns about repair issues with the HVAC system, indicating that two of the four compressors are currently off line. She also mentioned that Baker & Taylor, a major supplier of books for libraries, is going out of business. *McCue*: This will impact all public libraries.
5. **Library Foundation Board.** *McCue* reported that a vacancy on the Foundation Board has been filled with the appointment of *Angie Wessel*.
6. **Bremer County Library Association.** Bremer County's allotment of funds to county libraries has been static for the past five years, despite annual requests for increases. *Main*: A lack of upward adjustment is a real concern for smaller libraries in the county. *McCue*: Inflationary concerns need to be addressed, obviating a need for an increase. *Sherer*: Are the supervisors telling libraries they see no need for an increase, or are they indicating there are no available funds? *McCue*: They say they value libraries but have no funds for an increase. Moved (*Jones*), seconded (*Main*) to request a 5% increase for the coming year. Carried.
7. **Strategic Planning.** A community-wide focus group will meet on 28 October, 5-8 p.m. at the Library. From a list of 80 names, 20 individuals have accepted, with slightly more females than males. *Meyer*, who will represent the Library at the event, voiced enthusiasm for how the process is unfolding.
8. **Personnel & Policy Committee.** *Main* walked the board through the eight-page document "Collection Development Policy" and highlighted recommended revisions. Committee moved acceptance. Approved.

9. **Director Comments.** *Meyer* has begun a process of leadership coaching with Celina Peerman, indicating it is going well. Library Staff have completed their first half-day “staff development day.” Strategic planning is progressing well. Capital expenditure needs are being explored.
10. **Iowa Library Association (ILA) Meeting.** *Meyer* and *Trevor Krug* attended the annual meeting, this year in Sioux City. It was, she reported, an extremely positive event. As an invited guest, *Krug* reported on his and *Meyer’s* participation. Reflecting on insights from breakout sessions, he indicated that censorship challenges (regarding library holdings) are on the rise, but that ILA is responding proactively. “ILA lobbyists are fantastic,” he asserted. He identified a growing concern, the spread of misinformation in current culture, exacerbated by Artificial Intelligence (AI). In that regard, he spoke highly of the publication *The Chaos Machine* by Mack Fisher. He spoke with enthusiasm about the film “The Librarians,” screened at the event. He recommended board members (and others interested) view it at a special free-of-charge screening at Cedar Falls Public Library, 22 October, 6 p.m. *Sherer*: It’s a feather in our cap as a city and a library that Trevor is on the state-wide ILA executive team (as treasurer).
11. **Adjournment** at 6:35 p.m.

Submitted by Michael Sherer, Secretary of the Board