



LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
MAY 19, 2026

Roll call and introduction of attendees

Tom Engelmann called to order the monthly meeting of the Davenport Public Library Board of Trustees at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2026. The meeting was held in Meeting Room C at the Main Library. Roll call was taken with Honey Bedell, Tom Engelmann, Joe Heinrichs, Michael Hustedde, Shelley Klaas, and Jerry Skalak present. Absent: Joanna Drake, Amanda Motto, and Malavika Shrikhande. Others present: Jeff Collins, Library Director; Jennifer Williams, HR Operations Manager; Brittany Peacock, Youth Services Supervisor; Stephanie Spraggon, Information Services Librarian; Camara Buckles, Library Social Worker; Hilary Tanner, Davenport Public Library Foundation President; and Kasey Shipley, Office & Facilities Manager and Recorder.

Consent Agenda

Heinrichs motioned to approve the consent agenda with a second by Skalak. Bedell, Heinrichs, Hustedde, Klaas, Skalak, and Engelmann all approved.

Public with Comment

None.

Reports and Communications

Foundation Report

Tanner shared the Foundation has a new treasurer and they will be working with auditors the City of Davenport is paying for to complete a review of the Foundation's financials as a component unit of the City. Eide Bailly is the firm and they will complete the audit this summer. Fatal Fiction is set for Saturday, September 26. Currently, the Foundation is seeking donations to be made through Birdies for Charity. Skalak inquired on who is paying for the audit. The City committed to paying for this year but that may change in future years, per Tanner.

Finance Committee

Heinrichs reported that expenses noted in the Budget Recap look to be in line as the end of the fiscal year is approaching. Hustedde inquired about the balance of Fairmount's roof. Shipley noted the retainage hasn't showed being paid out in reports, but will be spent out fully. Bedell asked about impacts from the property tax relief bill that was recently passed. Collins shared the City is evaluating the impact of SF2472, as are other municipalities, and working with the Iowa League of Cities on what the budgets will look like for FY2027 and FY2028.

Personnel Committee

Nothing to report.



Advocacy Committee

Klaas announced she will be stepping down from the Library Board of Trustees and this is her last meeting. She had been contemplating the move and made the final decision when she learned there were two applicants for Motto's vacancy and thought it may be the right time to cycle off the Board. Collins noted the new applicants will be appointed and approved in June, joining the Trustees in July, and committees could be assigned then. Engelmann thanked her for the time she gave and for her advocacy for The Library. She replied that she learned a lot during her time as a Trustee.

Director's Report

Collins shared that the State accreditation is official as of July 1, 2026 and it is good through June 30, 2029. He credited staff for their hard work, day in and day out, to meet those guidelines and benchmarks. As part of the Strategic Plan, increasing community awareness of resources and services, has led to building a collection of patron stories that showcase how a library experience has impacted their life. Collins encouraged Trustees to share a story if they'd like, and to share with their networks. Creating a database of these stories can help with advocacy. Collins shared that The Library partnered with Rock Island Public Library last month for a staff development day. He thanked the Trustees for allowing The Library to be closed for the day so all staff could gather together. Collins took this opportunity to introduce the newest member of staff, Library Social Worker, Camara Buckles. Buckles shared she is from Davenport and has been in social work for over 20 years. She has worked with children with disabilities, homebound seniors, and in mental health as a social worker. She is excited to be here in the library environment. In other personnel news, recruitment for the Assistant Director position has led to two in-person interviews coming up in the next couple of weeks. Over the past six months, or more, staff has been working on compliance with the accessibility standards, known as WCAG, to improve web content accessibility. So much work went into getting up the new federal standards, especially by Jay Orr and Richard Stumpff in the IT department. The original deadline was met for compliance, and has now been extended by one year. His report included an update on street closures that impact Fairmount and Eastern. Lighting projects were recently completed at Eastern and Fairmount. Eastern had early LED technology replaced with direct-wired lamps eliminating ballasts. Fairmount had fluorescent replaced with LED. Main has upgrades coming that include replacing early generation LED lamps that are overheating and a few falling out of holders. Hustedde inquired about lithium-battery powered devices since it has been in the news recently. No issues have been reported in the libraries.

An update was shared regarding the Fairmount garden and pollinators project which is being funded by a \$10,000 grant from the Clean River Advisory Council of which Trustee Drake is a member. Installation of native plants, re-mulching of Food Forest, and the planting of three trees took place on May 9 by Scouting America Troop 243. The plan for the community garden is to have some wheelchair accessible plots with raised beds, and fencing around about 20 plots to check out to the public in the space near the bike path. There is room for some growth if it is a popular service. A partnership with



Scott County Library System has been created to cross-promote local history collections and developing joint programming. Collins mentioned that new library card designs by Tessa Wallace were forthcoming and encouraged trustees to ask to replace their card if they would like one of the new designs. DavenportU came to the Main Library a couple of weeks ago and participants were surprised by the services offered. Rachel Rugg, Information Services Librarian, received an award from Dementia Friendly Iowa for hosting the largest single training session in the state, which was held during the 2025 Staff Development Day. Collins mentioned there is a volunteer appreciation program on Thursday to honor those that give their time to The Library. The joint meeting with City Council will be on June 30 at 3:45 p.m. at Eastern. Skalak was impressed by a recent program at Eastern; he wishes more would attend the program offerings, but understands there is only so much that can be done to promote them.

Old Business

The only item of old business was to approve the Circulation Policy. Klaas motioned to approve the policy with a second by Bedell. With no further discussion, Bedell, Skalak, Heinrichs, Klaas, Hustedde, and Engelmann voted to approve.

President's Comments

Engelmann did not have anything to add as he shared thoughts on the legislation that passed related to property tax reform earlier in the meeting.

Board Training – Summer Reading Challenge with Brittany Peacock and Stephanie Spraggon

A 25-minute training on the Summer Reading Challenge (SRC) for 2026 was presented. Spraggon began the session and she shared statistics from the previous five years, noting a 15% increase from 2024 to 2025, crediting the tote bag finishing prize as a likely cause of the increase. The program will have printed paper logs available at all locations and pre-registration on Beanstack is now available. More tickets for the grand prizes are available on Beanstack, so staff often encourage patrons to sign up that way. Tickets can be split between chances of winning different prize baskets in Beanstack. The paper log can only have one grand prize selected. The finishing prizes this year are planters with either zinnias or basil.

The list of quests share five in each age category so everyone in a household can do them together and mark off those quests. Prize basket contents were shown for each age group. The "Plant a Tree" prize is in each age category. The City's arborist will plant a tree, in a park or library grounds of choice, and have a plaque noting the winner's name. Peacock shared information on staff prizes, since staff are not eligible for grand prizes. The Staff Association will purchase a gift card, a name will be drawn to decide the annual potluck theme, and Plant a Tree will be provided by the City. There will also be a weekly drawing for the best parking spot for staff to use at each building. Peacock encouraged trustees to promote the Summer Reading Challenge to friends, family, on social media, or to strangers, and to attend programs to engage with participants if they are able. Other promotional information was



shared, noting ways in which staff are promoting SRC, including Books on the Blacktop elementary school and neighborhood visits, flyers, window decorations, and themed displays at each library. Some special programs were highlighted that are related to the theme, such as lawns and herbs. Party in the Park dates and locations were also shared. BubblePalooza is the kick-off SRC event on May 30 from 10-noon at the Eastern Branch. Peacock thanked the Summer Reading Challenge Task Force, a new group created this year, to come up with reading log ideas, quests, prizes, and more. If anyone on the Board wants to join next year, they would be glad for another perspective. Klaas mentioned that she appreciates having this program as she cares for a grandchild over the summer. Hustedde asked where to find all of the information presented, and Peacock shared that it is on the website.

Adjourn

With no further business, Bedell motioned to adjourn at 12:57 p.m. with a second by Skalak. All approved.