



Board of Trustees Meeting
October 10, 2023

Mission Statement

*Pella Public Library enriches our community by welcoming, creating,
and nurturing curious minds and lifelong learners*

I. Call to Order

President Darath Fisher called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Board members present: Chris Allen, Suzy Card, Darath Fisher, Dayrel Gates, Brenda Huisman, Kristi Leonard, and Matt Van Gelder. Library Director Mara Strickler was present. There were no board members absent.

II. Recognition of Visitors and Visitor Comments

There were three visitors and one staff member present.

- One individual addressed the board concerning the U.S. Constitution and the First Amendment; however he was referring messaging from the Vote No group. Once the remarks were concluded, the board president reminded him that the library board is separate from the Vote No group and that the board has no input to the Vote No group's communication content. The individual warned the board that "this is not over".

III. Approval of Agenda

- The meeting agenda was distributed to all board members prior to the meeting. Kristi moved to approve the agenda. Brenda seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Disposition of Minutes

- The minutes of the regular meeting of September 12, 2023, were distributed to all board members prior to the meeting. Matt moved to approve the minutes. Brenda seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Approval of Bills

- The September list of bills was distributed to all board members prior to the meeting. Brenda moved to approve the bills. Chris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - At 17% of physical year elapsed the library has expended 16% of the budget.

VI. Unfinished Business

- There was no unfinished business.

VII. New Business

- Storytime Room Conversion
 - The Storytime room has been outgrown. Katie recommends repurposing the area as a STEM activity room and maker space. The family of J.T. Atchison wishes to make a donation to the library to honor the young man. Discussion was held on naming the repurposed room for JT. The question was raised on having a policy in place for similar memorial/naming requests. Consensus of the board was to support the memorial dedication.
- FY23 Iowa Public Library General Information Survey
 - Need to continue working on weeding the collection. Some of this work was completed during the RFID conversion, however work is still needed as the collection continues to grow with additions.
 - The trend in libraries is a decrease in use physical materials and an increase in use of digital materials. Need to continue to enhance and grow the digital offerings to meet patrons' needs. Hoopla makes its entire collection available. Bridges offers a base subscription, then an "advantage" subscription which each subscribing library tailors to enhance its collection. Our library has priority access to the advantage titles we have specified; if no patron has an advantage title checked out, the title is made available to other libraries which have an advantage plan.
 - The number of uses of public computers remains steady. We will continue to provide publicly available computers for use by patrons.
 - There was a decrease in attendance at children's programs, ages 6-11. There was an increase in attendance of programs for young adults and an increase in attendance at adult programs. Mara feels that the overall increase in visits to the library was probably fueled by these programs.
 - Brenda moved to approve the FY23 survey for submission to the State. Suzy seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. President's Report and Announcements

- City council attendance: Chris on 10/17, Matt on 11/21
- Next week is "Friends of the Library Week". The board is grateful for the many ways that the Friends assist in carrying out the Library's mission.

IX. Director's Report

- Congratulations to Judy VanZee (25 yrs) and Dawn Van Berkum (15 yrs) on their service anniversaries.
- Pella Wellness Consortium grant is being used to acquire therapeutic lights and hardcopy books on mental health awareness and emotional wellbeing. Library staff plans to publicize this new collection in several ways.
- The Iowa Library Association Conference is being held in Dubuque, IA. The Director, Assistant Director, Youth Services Director, and Carol Weihe will be attending various portions of the conference.

X. Trustee Training Reports

- Intersections: Where City and Library Meet, 09/21, 10/26, 11/30. The remaining two sessions can be registered for on Iowa Learns. The recording from the first session should be available on Iowa Learns or on the State Library's YouTube channel.
- Public Library Standards – Section 7, Library Programming and Community Relations: the standards were reviewed by the board.

XI. Committee Reports

- Personnel Review
 - Long-range plan
 - Service Response #1, Civic/Community Engagement:
 - Due to funding limitations, the Marion County Reads program has not been implemented
 - Mara has joined the Pella Professional Business Women's Forum
 - Chris Brown has joined the Rotary Club
 - Service Response #2, Spaces and Places:
 - Looking to highlight plan elements with colors indicating the status of each, to make it easy to see the progress made.
 - The board will need to work on the strategic plan in 2024 as the present plan is effective through 2025. There will be some method of gathering community input to guide development of the plan.
- Policy Review
 - There were no policies reviewed.

XII. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. to be held in the Library meeting room.