

Independence Public Library  
Library Board of Trustees  
July 17, 2025

The meeting of the Library Board of Trustees was held in the Library Community Room of the Independence Public Library.

Those present at the meeting were Laura Blaker, Nancy Dodge, Emily Ownby, Matt Ritgers, Deb Clark, and Jake Bass. Also in attendance, Deputy Clerk Michelle Nejdl and Bret Weber, City Council Liaison.

The meeting was called to order by Jake Bass at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Nancy Dodge seconded by Emily Ownby to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Nancy Dodge and seconded by Matt Ritgers to approve the minutes with the changes mentioned. The motion carried unanimously.

Bills were reviewed. Motion made by Emily Ownby and seconded by Nancy Dodge to approve the July bills. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Statistics

The library had several great programs and activities for the month of June. There were more checkouts and visitors than June of 2024, and many successful events. Sammy the Salamander was a big hit.

#### New Business

##### Election of Officers

Robin Bleichner President, Jake Bass-Vice President, and Deb Clark Secretary.

#### Little Free Libraries

The eight Little Free Libraries need repair and upkeep. Brainstormed about businesses sponsoring a free little library. Laura shared that we could purchase composite boxes that would cost \$400-\$500 apiece.

#### Strategic Plan

IPL achieved 20 of the 21 goals for fiscal year 2025. The staff is currently working on updating the plan.

## Unfinished Business

None

## Miscellaneous

### Open Meeting Training

Open meetings training is now required by Iowa law to new members of governmental bodies. It is also recommended that current members take the training to refresh their knowledge. Laura will provide an email with the dates and times of the training.

### Park Update

Quentin Stenger, Toni Smedley, Laura Blaker and Vonnie Hoskins are committee members that have met and talked about the park's advantage of being ADA compliant and requesting grant money for the park by the library that contains Oaklee.

### Summer Reading Program Update

936 patrons have signed up with 586,000 minutes read which is 78% of the goal.

### Board Training

A scavenger hunt of the library website.

### Board and Staff Reports

Laura -Iowa Shares will only be running once a week with the state library paying for this service. Open access reports serving other communities' checkouts up 17%. There will be a meeting in regards to a possible transition to Microsoft 365 on July 18<sup>th</sup> with the City Manager. The City Manager would like access to the library's server.

### Adjournment

A motion was made by Nancy Dodge and seconded by Emily Ownby to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Deb Clark  
Secretary