

Independence Public Library
Library Board of Trustees
June 19, 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, Quentin Stenger, Deb Clark, and Robin Bleichner. Also in attendance, Lisa Lorenzen, Associate Clerk and Bret Weber, City Council Liaison.

The meeting was called to order by Robin Bleichner at 6:31 p.m.

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

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

Bills were reviewed. Motion made by Emily Ownby and seconded by Quentin Stenger to approve the June bills. The motion carried unanimously.

Statistics

The staff reached many kids about Summer Reading with outreach to East Elementary School, Liberty Christian School, West Elementary School, and St John's School.

New Business

None

Unfinished Business

Vision and Mission Policy

A motion was made by Deb Clark and seconded by Nancy Dodge to approve changes to the policy. The vision, mission, and mascot have all changed. The motion carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous

New Resources

New items added to the Library of Things with donations from the IPL Foundation and the Friends of the Independence Library. Thank you very much for the donation. The State Library has offered Brainfuse free for public libraries in Iowa

in the past, but are discontinuing due to cuts and changes in priorities. Instead, they will offer Mometrix, which focuses on test preparation for over 3000 tests.

Facility Update

Laura informed the board that she may be looking for a new cleaning service. Water in basement by water softener. Laura has not noticed this issue in the past but will keep a watch on it.

Homeschool Connections

A survey was sent to families who homeschool their children. We had fifteen returned surveys with suggestions for materials and other ways the library could be helpful to them.

Summer Activities Update

The goal for the summer reading program is 936 participants. Currently there are 880. Minutes read goal is 750,000 with 185,000 minutes read so far.

Board Training

Kanopy app starts in July with over 31,000 videos, series, documentaries and more. Twenty-five tickets per registered library patron per month. Kanopy will be connected to Overdrive and will eventually show up on Libby.

Board and Staff Reports

Laura -Talked about the park north of the library, the trees, and a potential programming and seating area since the grant was not successful. A table and umbrella have been ordered for the area. A Park Committee with Quentin and some library staff members will meet and talk about how to proceed. The committee will communicate with the Parks and Rec Department. The July meeting, election of new officers.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deb Clark
Secretary