

Independence Public Library
Library Board of Trustees
November 20, 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, Robin Bleichner, Emily Ownby, Quentin Stenger, Deb Clark, Matt Rittgers, and Nancy Dodge. Also in attendance, Bret Weber, City Council Liaison, Lisa Lorenzen Associate Clerk.

The meeting was called to order by Robin Bleichner at 6:30 p.m.

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

A motion was made by Nancy Dodge and seconded by Matt Rittgers to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Statistics

The Hot Spots are outdated; Laura and staff are researching new devices. The Boo Bash was an enormous success.

New Business

Close Early for Staff Development

A motion was made by Quentin Stenger to approve the additional days to close early for staff development. They are Tuesday, Dec. 2, and Wednesday, Jan. 7. The January one may canceled by the director if it is not needed or needs to be postponed. The motion was seconded by Nancy Dodge. The motion carried unanimously.

Library FY27 Budget Proposal

A motion was made by Emily Ownby seconded by Quentin Stenger to approve the FY27 budget proposal with the caveat if the insurance budget amount changes. If City Hall changes their recommendation for insurance, the director is approved in modifying it to their suggestion. The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Library Director Evaluation Format

Motion made by Quentin Stenger and seconded by Matt Rittgers to approve the library evaluation that we typically have used in the past.

Miscellaneous

Advocacy with City Council

Discussed how our one-on-one discussions went with the city council members.

Annual Report FY25

Laura shared the FY25 year in review. A few of the board members will drop off the report at area businesses.

Board Training

The training covered library cards and services, including city funding, county funding, and the Iowa Code.

Board and Staff Reports

None

Adjournment

A motion was made by Nancy Dodge and seconded by Quentin Stenger to adjourn the meeting. Motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Clark

Secretary