

Location

Bentonville Public Library (BPL)
Rotary Conference Room

Call to Order

Hadi Dudley, Library Director, called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m.

Attendees

Megan Bolinder, Michelle Evans, Kimberly Seay, Cynthia Cochran, Michele Stamps Prichett, Matthew Moses, Steve Galen (BLF), Tara Clark, Tanner (IT Support), Hadi Dudley, and Vira Kousol

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The group reviewed the meeting minutes from April 2, 2025. Megan Bolinder moved, and Kimberly Seay seconded, to approve the minutes as presented. The board minutes for April 2, 2025 were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. Emerging Leader Service Award
 - a. Ad Hoc Committee: Cynthia Cochran, chair with Megan Bolinder and Kimberly Seay. Michelle Evans is an alternate, if needed.
 - i. Interviews with candidates for the Emerging Leader Service Award are pending.
 - ii. The committee will recommend a winner to the board. The board will discuss and vote for the best-qualified candidate for the Emerging Leader award winner.
 - iii. The awards ceremony is October 9 at Booked for the Evening, a Library Foundation event.
2. Library Report
 - a. Tara Clark provided updates on programs and marketing
 - i. Focus on meeting the target audience of adults, particularly seniors and their caretakers.
 1. Tara developed a brochure highlighting BPL resources and services for Seniors and their Caretakers.
 2. Library staff visited Senior Fair to make contacts and develop more programming with collaborators
 3. Developing strategies for serving and reaching those populations, especially for Library for Life Collection
 4. Navigating the Golden Years series launches in May with weekly programs and will have 1-2 events for seniors and their caregivers in subsequent months
 - ii. Confident Commuting is May 8, presented by the Bentonville Library Foundation in collaboration with Trailblazers and BPL.
 - iii. Tara circulated a draft copy of the Library's 2024 Annual Report. The entire publication is being reimaged and more fully developed. It will serve as a template for future annual report documents.

- b. Summer Reading Club starts on June 6.
 - i. Many events are scheduled for teens, children, and adults.
- c. Hadi informed the group of an ongoing problem with compact shelving in the genealogy department.
 - i. Repairs, specifically a retro-fit of all moveable end panels, are being scheduled; the cost is approximately \$15,000.
 - ii. BPL is using unencumbered funds in the capital facility budget (expansion / renovation category of funding).
- 3. Hadi Dudley gave the Expansion/Renovation update
 - a. The custom wood shelving for the book club lounge is installed.
 - b. A new monument sign was installed on Main Street; donated by Amp Sign and Banner
 - c. The vinyl floor re-work is complete.
 - d. Hadi continues to follow-up on several items related to the project.
 - i. Hadi reported issues with the new storefront doors installed with the expansion.
 - 1. BPL reported water problems to Flintco, MSR Design and Hight Jackson on November 4, 2024.
 - 2. Several repairs were made across many months leading into spring.
 - 3. Doors are still not performing well after repairs on specified hardware.
 - 4. Hadi requested different hardware for all new doors: thresholds, astragals and door sweeps.
 - 5. The team identified new door hardware as the best solution.
 - 6. Hardware is on order and will be installed mid-May.
 - ii. Interior furniture items with upholstery not performing well have been escalated to MSR Design to identify acceptable solutions.
 - iii. Audio-video equipment in the Rotary Conference Room is not ideal and upgrades to storytime area are being planned.
 - e. BPL ordered furniture for staff offices in order to match new and upgraded work areas.
 - f. The Library is exploring the option to purchase a new sorter with interior renovations for BPL's drive-through bookdrop.
 - g. One of the grant-provided trees did not survive the winter and will need to be replaced.
- 4. Hadi Dudley gave the Friends of Bentonville Library report for Peggy Snyder
 - a. No finance report.
 - b. The Pop-up Picture Book sale sold \$500 in one day.
 - c. Signage: the committee will collaborate with the library to design and implement signage and artwork in the bookstore.
 - d. New Display Shelving: options to not use tables and carts for best sellers.
- 5. Steve Galen provided the Bentonville Library Foundation report
 - a. 2025 totals YTD:
 - i. \$2,524 to help cover bookbags given out at ribbon-cutting event
 - ii. \$400 to support books and other items for the Teen collection
 - iii. \$120 to purchase books for various memorials and honorarium
 - iv. \$7,448 to purchase children's books – possibly to include Toniebox
 - v. \$837 in memorial, large print book purchases, and to include the purchase of another telescope
 - b. Events:
 - i. Adult Programs
 - 1. May 8th, Confident Commuting – cycling safety/etiquette, rules of the road, trail systems

2. Food as Medicine series beginning on August 27 - 4 sessions / 1 per month into November
3. Small Business/entrepreneurship beginning mid-January 2026 through March
- ii. October 9th Booked for the Evening
 1. BLF has secured \$12,250 in sponsors to cover:
 - a. Thaden Fieldhouse
 - b. Yeyo's catering
 - c. Various other expenses
 2. Presentation – to be confirmed
 3. Library Service Awards
- c. The next BLF board meeting is May 12th.
6. Public Comments on Agenda Items (Limited Public Forum)
 - a. No public comments were given

Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at 1 PM

No meetings in July or August, unless necessitated by Library business

Adjournment

The Library Advisory Board adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

About Public Comments on Agenda Items

Library Advisory Board meetings are open to the public. Guests may make public comments at the end of the agenda. Making a public comment will require you to register with your name, address, phone number and email address. Each person is limited to 3 minutes of comments; public comments should relate to board meeting agenda items.

***Library Service awards** are designed to celebrate and honor supporters of Bentonville Public Library, the Bentonville Library Foundation, and the Friends of the Bentonville Library by identifying and recognizing individuals or groups that provide significant contributions to promote the Library's important role in the community.

Criteria for the Emerging Leader Award presented by the Bentonville Library Advisory Board

Eligibility: A young adult (YA) who is a current or former staff member, library volunteer or participant in one of the library's stakeholder groups, such as Library Advisory Board, Teen Advisory Board, BLF or FOL.

Criteria: Service through significant work and achievements that substantially impacts library services to our community, with special emphasis on work that benefits youth. YA individuals (or groups) demonstrating proactive participation in library activities, leadership qualities and proven responsibility as a role model to peers and children are given preference.

Selection: A small committee of BPL Librarians identifies and proposes potential candidates and the advisory board selects the recipient. If appropriate, the Teen Advisory Board may be consulted or advise during the selection process.

Young adult is defined as 12-19 years of age (during the time of their library service). Recipients may be retroactively honored following high school graduation.