

Location

Bentonville Public Library (BPL)
Rotary Conference Room

Call to Order

Hadi Dudley, Library Director, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Attendees

Megan Bolinder, Michelle Evans, Kimberly Seay, Cynthia Cochran, Michele Stamps Prichett, Matthew Moses, Nathan Pollet, Steve Galen, Peggy Snyder, Octavio Sanchez, Bonnie Bridges, Tara Clark, Hadi Dudley, and Vira Kousol

Guests: Michael McCranie, City Communications Manager and Saryu Gurrula, BPL Marketing Intern

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The group reviewed the meeting minutes from May 7, 2025. Cynthia Cochran moved, and Michelle Evans seconded, to approve the minutes as presented. The board minutes for May 7, 2025 were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. Ex-Officio Reports
 - a. Peggy Snyder provided a report for the Friends of the Bentonville Library
 - i. Financial Report: Bank Balance - \$43,956.
 - ii. The 2024 finances have been audited, and federal and state taxes have been completed.
 - iii. Currently having a Chapter Book Sale
 - iv. Planning a modified Fall Book Sale, October 2 - 4
 - b. Steve Galen provided a report for the Bentonville Library Foundation
 - i. Adult Programs - Food as Medicine: 4 sessions / 1 per month into November
 1. **Session 1:** Wednesday, August 27, 5:30 – 7 p.m.
Opening Presentation: Plant-based diets and healing powers
Presentation by Dr. Craig Keever and Amy Keever
Tasting at the event
 2. **Session 2:** Wednesday, September 24, 5:30 – 7 p.m.
The speaker will be Marshall Shafkowitz with Brightwater (or representative)
Topic to be confirmed
 3. **Session 3:** October 1, 5:30 – 7 p.m.
Kids and Parents – Cooking for the Whole Family
Mary Thompson with Apple Seeds
 4. **Session 4:** November 5, 5:30 – 7 p.m.
Closing Reception with tasting at the event was discussed by planning committee; content has not been confirmed for this session

5. Additional classes were discussed for potential addition - dates and content to be determined: Ayurvedic Tasting, Seasonal, Eating/Foraging/Farmer's Markets, Kombucha 101.
 - ii. Small Business/entrepreneurship beginning mid-January 2026 through March
 - iii. October 9, Booked for the Evening
 1. The event will be at 5:30 p.m. – the bar will open in the lobby/bar area of Louise
 2. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. in the Fieldhouse
 3. Live auction
 - a. This will be a fundraising event for BLF
 - b. Ticket price has not been determined yet
 - c. Presentation:
 - i. Program titled: ***AI: How it is Affecting our community***
 - ii. Tiffany Benitez will serve as an emcee and has graciously connected us with:
 1. Alice Walton's CIO, Paige Francis
 2. Walmart Global Tech VP for Information Security Services, Andrea Shoppach
 3. Tyson's VP & Global Chief of Information Security, Matt Bunch, BLF, has secured \$12,250 in sponsors to cover
 - iv. BLF Board update:
 1. Howard Kerr, current BLF President will be stepping down.
 2. Officer election: Terms begin July 1, 2025
 - a. Steve Galen, President
 - b. Patrick Heavrin, Treasurer
 - c. Kevin Hall, Secretary
 3. Teresa Stafford is retiring in end-July; board is looking for a replacement.
 - v. The next BLF board meeting is July 14, 2025
2. Emerging Leader Service Award
 - a. Ad Hoc Committee: Cynthia Cochran, chair, with Megan Bolinder, Kimberly Seay
3. Library Report
 - a. Tara Clark provided updates on the library marketing and events
 - i. KUAF Ozarks at Large Live on June 10 at 12 p.m.
 - ii. Summer Reading numbers (day three):
 1. Active on Beanstack (already reading) – 603
 2. New registrants – 1896
 3. Minutes read – 76,445
 - iii. Aramark free lunches for kids' (day three):
 1. 330 + lunches each day
 - iv. Last year:
 1. First week – 1,035 (already surpassed that)
 2. Summer total – 9,937
 - v. Summer Reading Theme: Color Our World
 1. Decorations by Robin Mitchell

- vi. Programming developed around free lunches with morning sessions (10:30 AM) and afternoon sessions (1:00 PM)
- vii. Double showings for big shows on Fridays, like Tommy Terrific, with extra funding from Friends of the Bentonville Library
- b. Hadi Dudley provided updates on library expansion/renovation
 - i. Study room door change-out completed (full glass doors)
 - ii. Steel shelving punch list complete (by city public work team)
 - iii. Donor wall installation complete
 - iv. Compact shelving retrofit complete
 - v. More furniture delivered and installed, additional furniture pending (June 16)
 - vi. Audiovisual upgrades in Rotary and Storytime are underway
 - vii. Makerspace doors: new threshold, astragal, and door sweep installation (5/19/2025) and water test complete (5/22/2025)
 - viii. Other doors: new thresholds installed at veranda, courtyard, Storytime, craft, and north exit (5/28/2025)
 - ix. Exterior book-drop renovation/update
 - 1. The mayor gave the green light to proceed with pricing
 - 2. Minor remodel in the back book-drop area and book sorter
 - 3. Book sorter purchase will have to be approved by the city council due to cost.
- 4. Public Comments on Agenda Items (Limited Public Forum) – no comments were offered.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at 1 p.m.

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

Voting members are asked to tentatively hold July 2 and August 6 at 1 PM, in the event a meeting needs to be scheduled. A minimum of one week’s notice will be provided.

Adjournment

The Library Advisory Board adjourned at 1:54 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 for comments; public comments should relate to the agenda items of the board meeting.