

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

Michelle Evans, Kimberly Seay, Cynthia Cochran, Michele Stamps Prichett, Matthew Moses, Nathan Pollet, Steve Galen, Octavio Sanchez, Tanner Martin, Hadi Dudley, and Vira Kousol

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The group reviewed the meeting minutes from September 3, 2025. Nathan Pollet moved, and Cynthia Cochran seconded, to approve the minutes as presented. The board minutes for September 3, 2025 were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. Ex-Officio Reports
 - a. Friends of the Bentonville Library
 - i. Hadi Dudley reported that the Friends of the Bentonville Library will host the fall book sale in the Walmart Foundation Community Room.
 - ii. Thursday evening, October 2, at 5 p.m. – members only preview sale.
 - iii. Friday, October 3, and Saturday, October 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – open to the public.
 - iv. The board approved a \$50,000 tentative budget for the library for the 2026 calendar year. The membership will vote on this budget request in December.
 - v. Current Financial Report: \$53,516.35.
 - b. Bentonville Library Foundation
 - i. Steve Galen reported that the Executive Director has resigned and that a search for new staff is underway.
 - ii. The book event scheduled for October has been postponed to spring.
 - iii. The next BLF board meeting will be held in November.
2. Library Advisory Board business
 - a. The Emerging Leader Service Award Winner: Prabhdil Kaur.
 - b. Cynthia Cochran approved the Naming Designations, as presented, and Michele Stamps Prichett seconded, to approve the naming designations as presented.
 - i. Nancy and Joe Leak: Digital Lab
 - ii. RJW Logistics: Book Return Room
 - iii. In Memory of Ethan Putt: Tree
 - iv. Donated by Jan & Elvis Moody: Tree
 - v. In Memory of James T. Russell: Tree
 - vi. In Memory of Tennie & Bob Russell: Tree
 - vii. Donated by The Estrada Hamm Family: Tree
 - viii. Donated by Lowell Collins & Daryl Boyles: Tree

- ix. Rain garden Supported by Illinois River Watershed Partnership
 - 1. Copies of the complete list of the library naming designations were distributed to the board (see attachment).
- c. Board positions pending for December 2025
 - i. Vacancy: Megan Bolinder
 - 1. Vacancy will be posted on both the city and library websites.
 - ii. Reappointments: Matthew Moses and Michele Stamps Pritchett
- d. Board meeting administration in 2026
 - i. Select board chair
 - ii. Set meeting schedule
- 3. Library Report
 - a. Hadi Dudley provided the library update.
 - i. GeekCon returned, and it was a huge success with more than 2,000 in attendance.
 - ii. BPL debuted the GeekCon mascot, Gadget!
 - 1. Library staff presented the process of making Gadget in BPL's Makerspace and its role in marketing the geeky festival.
 - 2. The tiger mascot from Bentonville High School and Bentonville Fire Department's mascot, Marshal, also stopped by.
 - 3. A historic tiger mascot head was loaned for display by the Bentonville History Museum.
 - iii. NWA Book Fest: 500 people stopped by the Library's booth, with more exposure gained.
 - iv. BPL is hosting An Evening with Mark Archuleta, Thursday at 6PM (October 2) in the Rotary Conference Room. He is the author of the book *The Reel Thrilling Events of the Bank Robber Henry Starr*. This program is in partnership with the Bentonville History Museum.
 - v. We are hosting The Pioneer Woman, Ree Drummond, on Tuesday, November 11, at 6 p.m. at Arend Arts Center, Bentonville High School.
 - vi. Another budget adjustment will be taken to city council meeting for approval. It is to recognize the State Library to Public Library's. This is the very first-time, ever, that Bentonville Public Library is eligible for state aid.
- 4. Public Comments on Agenda Items (Limited Public Forum) – no comments.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 1 p.m.

Adjournment

The Library Advisory Board adjourned at 1:55 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.

Attachment: Library Naming Designations – Master List (October 1, 2025)