

Location - Bentonville Public Library (BPL) - Rotary Conference Room

Call to Order - Hadi Dudley, Library Director, called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Introduction of Guests - Jessica Cerra-Caplan and Jennifer Doherty

Attendees

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The group reviewed the meeting minutes from October 1, 2025. Michelle Evans moved, and Cynthia Cochran seconded, to approve the minutes as presented. The board minutes for October 1, 2025 were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. Ex-Officio Reports
 - a. Friends of the Bentonville Library
 - i. Hadi Dudley reported as of 10/31/2025, the Friends of the Bentonville Library bank balance is \$66,071.
 - ii. The October book sale was very successful, bringing in \$6,500.
 - iii. The Friends have met financial requests from the library, and the ending balance will be carried over to 2026 to support new requests.
 - iv. Friends decided not to store certain categories of books that do not sell very well, such as religion, politics, and self-help, and move them on immediately to the resale partner. This will free up space for the categories that move quickly. It will also reduce the size of the paid storage space.
 - v. The Friends' next meeting is an annual meeting, when the group approves the 2026 budget and serves as a Holiday/Appreciation event – Monday, December 1 at 10:30 a.m. in the Rotary Room. A refresher training session in the bookstore at 9:30 a.m. is also planned.
 - b. Bentonville Library Foundation
 - i. Steve Galen reported that the new Executive Director position is still in the search process.
 - ii. The Booked for the Evening event scheduled for October was postponed.
2. Library Advisory Board business
 - a. Board positions pending for appointment in January 2026
 - i. Vacancy: Megan Bolinder
 - ii. Vacancy: Matthew Moses
 - iii. Reappointment: Michele Stamps Pritchett
 - iv. There are several good applications demonstrating positive interest in the Library. Committee interviews are pending. Michelle Evans volunteered to represent the Library Advisory Board on the selection committee.

- b. Board meeting administration in 2026
 - i. After discussion, the group elected the board chairperson. Michele Stamps Prichett moved, and Nathan Pollet seconded, to approve Cynthia Cochran as chairperson of the Library Advisory Board, effective January 2026.
 - ii. The group discussed and set a new meeting time for the first Wednesday of every month at 5 p.m., effective January 2026.
- 3. Library Report
 - a. Hadi and Courtney Fitzgerald talked about An Evening with the Pioneer Woman, Ree Drummond, on Tuesday, November 11, at 6 p.m. at the Arend Arts Center. It is a ticketed event that is a partnership with Bentonville Schools and Two Friends Books.
 - b. Courtney provided a look ahead of other special programs and events.
 - i. The library will host Tim Ernst on Tuesday, December 9 at 6 p.m., in collaboration with Two Friends Books. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
 - ii. We launched a new collection about Citizenship
 - 1. How to obtain a green card
 - 2. How to become a U.S. Citizen
 - iii. The library is partnering with a local judge to host a naturalization ceremony on March 13, 2026, at 9 a.m.
 - iv. We are partnering with Canopy Northwest Arkansas to host a panel discussion on immigrants living in our area on March 10, 2026, at 6 p.m. The session includes a complementary display component that aligns with the program's content.
 - c. Hadi Dudley reported on the following items.
 - i. At the last meeting, Hadi shared that we received State Aid to Public Libraries from the Arkansas State Library for the first time, and we were awarded \$95,958. The first-quarter payment has been received, and the second-quarter payment is expected soon.
 - ii. A budget adjustment of \$47,980 was approved at the last City Council meeting to accept the funds this fiscal year. The State Aid will be used to upgrade the outdoor furniture on the Legacy Veranda.
 - iii. The furniture contract will be submitted for City Council approval.
 - iv. The remaining State Aid funds anticipated for next year will be used for a required IT capital project and for renewal of some of the library's databases that were slated for cancellation due to budget reductions in the City.
 - v. The State Aid to Public Libraries allowed the Library to provide new amenities for public use, as well as sustain digital resources for patrons. Both projects would not have been funded without the State Aid.
 - d. NWA Place Summit: Bentonville Public Library and Fayetteville Public Library are planning a presentation with MSR Design.
 - i. A Tale of Two Libraries is a case study that covers best practices for community engagement, intentional design, and placemaking.
 - ii. Anna Sharon, Teen Services Librarian, will represent Bentonville Public Library.
- 4. Public Comments on Agenda Items (Limited Public Forum) – no comments were provided.

Next Meeting - Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 1 p.m.

Adjournment - The Library Advisory Board adjourned at 2:02 p.m.