

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

Attendees

Kimberly Seay, Cynthia Cochran, Matthew Moses, Megan Bolinder, Steve Galen, Judy Marquess, Octavio Sanchez, Tanner Martin, Hadi Dudley, and Vira Kousol

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The group reviewed the meeting minutes from November 5, 2025. Matthew Moses moved, and Megan Bolinder seconded, to approve the minutes as presented. The board minutes for November 3, 2025 were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. Ex-Officio Reports
 - a. Friends of the Bentonville Library
 - i. Judy Marquess provided the Friends of the Bentonville Library report
 - ii. The Friends of the Library completed its annual meeting.
 - iii. The 2026 budget was approved for \$63,640, which includes a \$50,000 budget for the library
 - iv. As of 11/30/25, Friends have \$59,300 in the bank.
 - v. The Friends have successfully moved all memberships to a calendar-year schedule, which will significantly reduce workload.
 - vi. Friends, planning for the next book sale in the coming months.
 - b. Bentonville Library Foundation
 - i. Steve Galen reported that the new Executive Director position has been filled, and the new director will start in January.
2. Library Advisory Board business
 - a. Recognize Megan Bolinder and Matthew Moses
 - b. Board positions pending for December
 - i. Vacancy: TBD
 - ii. Vacancy: TBD
 - iii. Reappointment: Michele Stamps Pritchett
 - iv. There are ten (10) applications currently under consideration
 - v. Committee interviews pending; committee members: Michelle Evans, representing Library Advisory Board, Hadi Dudley, Library Director, Anna Sharon, Teen Services Librarian, and Shelli Kerr, City of Bentonville Planning.
 - c. Board meeting administration in 2026

- i. The group discussed and decided to keep its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 5 p.m.
 - ii. Board Chairperson
 - 1. Cynthia Cochran was elected board chairperson in November.
 - 2. The group will discuss the terms of service for officers (i.e., 1 year or 2 years, max 4 years) in January.
 - 3. The group will identify/select a vice chairperson in January.
 - iii. The group will review meeting room rentals and library fines and fees early next year.
- 3. Library Report
 - a. Hadi Dudley provided the library report
 - i. On Monday, Courtney and PWM staff removed the drive-thru bookdrop system and Flintco began demolition of the building.
 - ii. No overdue fees will be charged during the construction period.
 - iii. Completion of the project is expected by mid-January.
 - iv. The City Council approved the purchase of the furniture for the Legacy Veranda, and we will surplus some of the existing furniture.
 - v. An Evening with the Pioneer Woman, Ree Drummond, was a great success with more than 800 in attendance! It was a terrific example of how partnerships with Bentonville Schools and Two Friends Books broadened the Library's reach in our community.
 - vi. The library will host Tim Ernst on Tuesday, December 9, at 6 p.m.
 - vii. The children's department is hosting a Pajama Storytime on December 20th in the Walmart Foundation Community Room.
 - viii. BPL had 30 architecture students from Bentonville High School and Bentonville West High School visit the library for a special tour.
 - ix. The library budget was approved at the last council meeting.
 - 1. Our full-time children's specialist position, which has been frozen for half a year, will be reinstated.
 - a. The full-time position will be filled internally by promoting an existing part-time person; the part-time position will be posted.
 - 2. By eliminating two vacant part-time (previously frozen) positions, we are able to promote a part-time staff member in the Adult Services department.
 - x. Personnel needs for 2027 will be assessed as part of next year's budget process.
- 4. Public Comments on Agenda Items (Limited Public Forum) – None.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 5 p.m.

Adjournment

The Library Advisory Board adjourned at 1:53 p.m.