

Location

Bentonville Public Library (BPL)
Rotary Conference Room

Call to Order

Board Chairperson - Cynthia Cochran called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.
The group participated in roundtable introductions and welcomed new members, Roland Smith and Jennifer Doherty.

Roll Call

Cynthia Cochran, Kimberly Seay, Michele Stamps Pritchett, Michelle Evans, Nathan Pollet, Roland Smith, Jennifer Doherty, Octavio Sanchez, Steve Galen, Peggy Snyder, Tara Clark, Hadi Dudley, and Vira Kousol

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The group reviewed the meeting minutes from December 3, 2025. Michele Stamps Pritchett moved, and Roland Smith seconded, to approve the minutes as presented. The board minutes for December 3, 2025 were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. Board Chairperson, Cynthia Cochran, provided updates on the Library Advisory Board business
 - a. Board positions appointed on December 22, 2025 by the City Council:
 - i. Reappointment: Michele Stamps Pritchett
 - ii. Jennifer Doherty
 - iii. Roland Smith
 - b. Identify Vice Chairperson
 - i. The group discussed the process for selecting a vice-chairperson to serve in the absence of the board chair.
 - c. Determine term of service for officers
 - i. Michele Stamps Pritchett moved, and Michelle Evans seconded, to accept the proposed term of service for officers (2-year term with maximum of 2 terms, 4 years). The motion was approved by the board.
 - d. The group discussed Ex-Officio Board Seats – proposed:
 - i. Bentonville City Council*
 - ii. Friends of the Bentonville Library*
 - iii. Bentonville Library Foundation*
 - iv. Teen Advisory Board
 - v. Northwest Arkansas Genealogical Society
 - vi. Bentonville History Museum
 - vii. Northwest Arkansas Community College
 - viii. Bentonville Schools
 - e. Draft Policy – Governance and Support Groups
 - i. The group reviewed and discussed a draft policy related to governance and support groups. Michele Stamps Pritchett moved, and Jennifer Doherty seconded, to approve the proposed changes to the library policy.

2. Library Report

a. Programming & Marketing updates: Tara Cloud Clark, Marketing Specialist

- i. Annual Report for 2024 was issued December 2025
 1. Features more attention to our partners
 2. The next issue for 2025 is expected in April 2026
 3. The report will utilize opportunities to market collection and services to further develop support for BPL.
- ii. Brochures created with new branding were shared with the group.
 1. Materials are located around the library to reach target audiences.
 2. Topics include: BPL for Business, BPL for Educators, BPL for Teens, BPL for Readers, BPL for Makers, Space, and BPL for 50+ and their caretakers
 3. The most popular are monthly event guides, BPL for Readers, and BPL for Makers.
- iii. Library for Life kits rebrand is underway for visibility and information in consideration of the target audience.
- iv. Library of Things rebrand is forthcoming.
- v. Programming updates
 1. Citizenship Corner and Events
 - a. Tuesday, March 10 at 5 p.m. – What We Carry – exhibit of art by Tram Colwin
 - b. Art Exhibit Opening and Reception - 5:00 p.m.
 - c. Panel Discussion - 6:00 p.m.
 - d. Friday, March 13 at 9:00 a.m. – US Naturalization Ceremony
- vi. Children's upcoming events
 1. Black History Month Storytime with the Northwest Arkansas Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. – Saturday, February 7, 11:00 a.m.
 2. Tommy Terrific's Wacky Magic Show – Satchel Paige and Negro League Baseball – Saturday, February 14, 11:00 a.m.
 3. Local Author Showcases are tentatively scheduled for April.
 4. Upcoming author events – hosted by PBL with Two Friends Books: John Patrick Green on February 7th and Dan Santat on April 17th.

b. Administration updates: Hadi Dudley, Library Director

- i. Book drop renovation and upgrade: renovations basically complete with final touch-ups pending; Tech Logic 7-bin sorter delivered and installed with power and data connection pending, then testing and training. The drive-thru book drop will reopen to the public on Monday, January 11, at 9 AM.
- ii. Volunteers needed: School Outreach Events
 1. Ruth Hale Barker Middle School, Tuesday, January 20 at 6-7:30 PM
 2. Willowbrook Elementary Culture Fair, Tuesday, March 31 at 5:30-7 PM
 3. Vaughn Elementary STEM Night, Thursday, April 9 at 5-6:30 PM
- iii. Next month, we will recap 2025 by reporting on statistics and revenue overview (fines and fees). Related to revenue, BPL staff will recommend a few minor adjustments to the Library's Fee and Fine Schedule, subject to board approval.

3. Ex-Officio Reports

a. Friends of the Bentonville Library

- i. Peggy Snyder provided the Friends of the Bentonville Library report.
 1. The Friend of the Library ended 2025 with a bank balance of \$64,099.

- 2. Friends are planning on having two book sales. Children’s book sale in March, and Fall book sale, October 1 – 3. Both sales will depend upon the number of books friends have available to sell.
 - ii. Donated fiction books are down from previous years.
- b. Bentonville Library Foundation
 - i. Steve Galen reported that they have hired a new Executive Director, Kelly McIntock.
- 4. Public Comments on Agenda Items (Limited Public Forum) – None.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 5 PM

Adjournment

The Library Advisory Board adjourned at 6:00 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 the board meeting agenda items.

Appendix

Library Advisory Board Terms of Service

LAB Term Rotations as-of 12/30/2025		
2022-2026	2022-2026	2022-2026
Nathan Pollet	Kimberly Seay	Michelle Evans
2nd term	2nd term	1st term

2024-2028
Cynthia Cochran *Board Chair 2026
2nd term

2026-2030	2026-2030	2026-2030
Michele Stamps Pritchett	Roland Smith	Shannon Doherty
2nd term	1st term	1st term

Term of Service (Jan 1. - Dec 31)	Future Terms
2022-2026	2027-2031
2022-2026	2027-2031
2022-2026	2027-2031
2024-2028	2029-2033
2026-2030	2031-2035
2026-2030	2031-2035
2026-2030	2031-2035