

Location

Bentonville Public Library (BPL)
Rotary Conference Room

Call to Order

Board Chairperson, Cynthia Cochran, called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Library Advisory Board Member	Ex-Officio Groups	Ex-Officio Representative
Cynthia Cochran	Bentonville City Council	Octavio Sanchez
Jennifer Doherty	Friends of the Bentonville Library	Peggy Snyder
Michelle Evans	Bentonville Library Foundation	Steve Galen / Kelly McLintock
Nathan Pollet	BPL Teen Advisory Board	Jemal Janyyeva
Kimberly Seay	Northwest Arkansas Genealogical Society	Carol Miles
Roland Smith	Northwest Arkansas Community College	Sharon Fox
Michele Stamps Pritchett	Bentonville History Museum	Dana Doughty
	Bentonville Schools	(TBD)
Library Staff		Guests / City Staff
Hadi Dudley, Library Director		Michael Brewer, BHM
Tara Cloud Clark, Marketing Specialist		Deanna Ratcliffe, BHM
		Mike Ward, Library patron

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The group reviewed the meeting minutes from March 4, 2026. Kimberly Seay moved, and Michele Stamps Pritchett seconded, to approve the minutes as presented. The meeting minutes from March 4, 2026 were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. Library Advisory Board business
 - a. Ex-Officio Board Seats
 - i. The group participated in roundtable introductions and welcomed new ex-officio member Dana Doughty, and guests Michael Brewer and Deanna Ratcliffe, from the Bentonville History Museum.
 - b. Municipal Code updates to City Council: April 28, 2026

- i. Roland Smith moved, and Jennifer Doherty seconded, to approve the Municipal Code updates as presented. The Municipal Code updates were approved as presented.
 - c. Pending adoption of Board Bylaws and Rules of Order: May 6, 2026
 - i. Proposed board bylaws were provided to the group for consideration to be approved at a future meeting.

2. Library Report

- a. Programming & Marketing updates: Tara Cloud Clark, Marketing Specialist
 - i. Past events: What We Carry event hosted 57 people. The Naturalization Ceremony was attended by 245 people. Both events were lovely! Storytime Kits and Library for Life peg wall and senior area are ready for public use.
 - ii. Upcoming authors at Bentonville Public Library: Dan Santat on April 17 at 6 p.m.; Rick Atkinson on May 28 at 12 p.m.; Jerry Pallotta on August 8 at 1 p.m.
 - iii. Community Craft Closet, Upcycled Creations, and Craft Swap programming ties in with a Thaden student project for therapeutic arts and crafts that supports accessibility.
 - iv. The Library is launching an Animation Club and Intro to 2D Animation class as part of our Makerspace offerings.
 - v. We are hosting a Free Legal Aid Clinic on April 22 in collaboration with Legal Aid of Arkansas and Bentonville Schools' Ignite program.
 - vi. BPL is planning an Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month exhibit with Teen Advisory Board member Yenuli in May. Art from AAPI students from Bentonville Schools, University of Arkansas, NWACC, or Thaden will be featured in the Library's Community Gallery. Yenuli will also meet with OZArt NWA to learn the logistics of curating and hanging an art show.
 - vii. Learn Your Local Area events are scheduled at the Library about Hobbs State Park on April 15 and the History of Bella Vista on June 8.
 - viii. The new Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) bus route #17 is exciting! BPL will have a display with maps in the Community Hub and is planning a team bus ride.
 - ix. Storytime at the Farmers Market will be presented by Library staff on Saturdays May 9, August 8, and October 10 at 11:15 a.m.
- b. Administration updates: Hadi Dudley, Library Director
 - i. Invitations and reminders for City events include: Congressional Student Art Competition Awards Ceremony on April 8 at 6 p.m.; Community Council on April 17 at 11 a.m.; Coffee with the Mayor on April 21 at 8 a.m.; Proclamation for National Library Week at City Council on April 28 at 6 p.m. Recent administrative items will also be included on the council agenda for approval.
 - ii. LAB volunteer opportunities include: NWACC Parenting Resources Fair on April 8 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; Vaughn Elementary STEM Night on April 9 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.; City of Bentonville Clean the Streets Day on April 10 at 9 a.m.; Multicultural Night at the International School at Mary Mae Jones on April 16 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.; and Peel Compton Community Picnic on May 31 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- c. Bentonville History Museum
 - i. Introduction and background: Hadi Dudley, Library Director
 - 1. For several months, the City of Bentonville has been in conversation with others about acquiring the Bentonville History Museum (BHM) as a

- department of the Library. There is a list of required goals for BHM to accomplish and the group is meeting every goal in a timely fashion.
- ii. Organizational mission and key accomplishments: Dana Doughty, Museum Manager
 1. The Library Advisory board was provided with a comprehensive report on the value BHM adds to our community, including programs, events, exhibits, and more. Collaborations with the Library are positive and will continue. Details about the work accomplished readying the Museum's integration with the Library / City were shared. The list of accomplishments is impressive! When the process is complete, the existing BHM board of directors will convert to a Friends of the Bentonville History Museum group.
 - iii. Next steps: City processes for FY2027 budget, a personnel addition, acceptance of assets, and future policy approvals will continue. Full integration is planned for early next year.
 1. Reminder: The City owns and maintains the Train Depot, Caboose Park, and Train Station Park across from the Library.
 - iv. Library Board members are encouraged to visit the museum and see the improvements.
3. Ex-Officio – Standing Reports
 - a. Friends of the Bentonville Library
 - i. Peggy Snyder reported that a recent Fill the Truck event yielded limited results. The Children's book sale earned \$4,000. The group is considering if they should host an annual book sale in the fall, or not. The bookstore still needs donated books. A financial report was not available.
 - b. Bentonville Library Foundation
 - i. Steve Galen reported that the group is undergoing foundational work such redesigning the website to be a giving platform, financial cleanup, and will have more information to share in about 60 days. The Foundation will not provide any reports for the next few months to the Library Advisory Board.
 4. Ex-Officio – Additional Reports*
 - a. BPL Teen Advisory Board
 - b. Bentonville History Museum
 - c. Northwest Arkansas Genealogical Society
 - d. Northwest Arkansas Community College
 5. Public Comments on Agenda Items (Limited Public Forum)
 - a. Cynthia Cochran recognized Mike Ward who provided public comments to the Library Advisory Board.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 5 p.m.

Adjournment

Kimberly Seay moved, and Roland Smith seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Agenda Appendices

Bentonville Municipal Code – Draft (subject to legal edits for council)

Library Advisory Board Bylaws – Draft

City Council Resolution 9-23-25D regarding support for the Bentonville History Museum

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 board meeting agenda items.

*Additional ex-officio reports are provided as business and time allows.