

Location

Bentonville Public Library (BPL), Rotary Conference Room

Call to Order

Board Chairperson, Cynthia Cochran, called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

Roll Call

Library Advisory Board Member	Ex-Officio Representative	Ex-Officio Groups
Cynthia Cochran	Octavio Sanchez	Bentonville City Council
Jennifer Doherty	Peggy Snyder	Friends of the Bentonville Library
Michelle Evans	Steve Galen / Kelly McLintock	Bentonville Library Foundation
Nathan Pollet	Jemal Janyyeva	BPL Teen Advisory Board
Kimberly Seay	Carol Miles	Northwest Arkansas Genealogical Society
Roland Smith	Sharon Fox	Northwest Arkansas Community College
Michele Stamps Pritchett	Dana Doughty	Bentonville History Museum
	(TBD)	Bentonville Schools
Library Staff		Guests / City Staff
Hadi Dudley, Library Director		
Tara Cloud Clark, Marketing Specialist		
Carl Lukins, Makerspace Librarian		
Virginia Poole, Makerspace Specialist		
Christina Clark, Children’s Librarian (partial)		

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The group reviewed the meeting minutes from April 1, 2026. Michele Stamps Pritchett moved, and Roland Smith seconded, to approve the minutes as presented. The meeting minutes from April 1, 2026 were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. Library Advisory Board business
 - a. Municipal Code updates were approved by City Council on April 28, 2026.
 - b. Roland Smith moved, and Michelle Evans seconded, to adopt the proposed Board Bylaws and Rules of Order. The board approved adoption of Board Bylaws and Rules of Order.
 - c. Pending: Bentonville Schools ex-officio member – interview meetings will be scheduled as soon as possible by an ad hoc committee that consists of Cynthia Cochran, Michelle Evans, and Hadi Dudley.
2. Library Reports
 - a. Programming & Marketing updates: Tara Cloud Clark, Marketing Specialist

- i. Tara provided a brief recap of last month’s library programs. Highlights include the following: NWACC Parenting Resources Fair with 60 students/faculty/staff and BPL staff made community connections. Author event with Dan Santat was attended by 118 people and BPL implemented a new format for sales and signing, which works well especially for after-hours events and large crowds.
 - ii. New animation clubs are getting traction. Free Legal Aid Clinic in collaboration with Legal Aid of Arkansas, volunteers from Walmart, and students from Ignite served eight families with drafting 15 documents.
 - iii. In the Community Gallery: Asian American Pacific Islanders Heritage (AAPIH) month exhibit with Teen Advisory Board member Yenuli. There will be a City Public Art display in June. Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) bus routes will be promoted with the new (FREE!) Route #17 option.
 - iv. BPL will host Storytime at the Farmers Market - Saturdays May 9, August 8, October 10 at 11:15 a.m. New Baby Storytime offered: average of 134 at Baby Storytime in April (no less than 100); it’s the most attended session; BPL is scheduling the additional program a later time to discourage people from staying for both sessions in the same morning. Some Children’s programming going on hold for summer: Pokémon Club, Tween Creative Writing Club, Chess Club, Lego Club, and Homeschool Hub.
 - v. Bike and Book Fest on its way! Save the date: June 27. Upcoming Authors Visits include Rick Atkison on May 28 at 12:00 p.m. and Jerry Pallotta on August 8 at 1 p.m.
- b. Librarian Report: Carl Lukins, Makerspace Librarian with Virginia Poole, Makerspace Specialist
 - i. Carl reported that 1652 patrons have visited the makerspace this year with cost recovery fees totaling \$3732.56. People attend Makerspace courses and craft programs, in addition to working on all types of self-directed projects. 3D printing is the most popular service.
 - 1. The group asked about options for recycling 3D filament (waste).
 - ii. Virginia reported the Animation Club hosted its first meeting on April 9. The goal is to foster a community of animators. Each club meeting starts with a brief lesson on animation history or processes; attendees are working with traditional animation on paper, digital animation on iPads, or stop-motion animation with the Digital Lab. Club members are encouraged to use the Makerspace outside of meeting times and BPL plans to have networking opportunities with industry professionals at future sessions.
 - 1. The group discussed connecting with NWACC and Bentonville Schools for promotion.
- c. Administration updates: Hadi Dudley, Library Director
 - i. Fee and Fine Schedule approved by City Council, effective May 18, 2026.
 - ii. Revised Standards for State Aid for Public Libraries will likely be on the meeting agenda for the Arkansas State Library (ASL) Board on Friday, May 8 at 10 a.m. After standards are shared, there is a 30-day comment period.
 - 1. Hadi may request LAB members to provide feedback on behalf of BPL. A formal comment would require voting members’ approval at the June 3rd meeting which would be shared directly after with the State Library, Board Chair, and Department of Education.

2. The ASL Board meetings are open to public for viewing online; meeting information is available on the State Library's website.
 - iii. Volunteer opportunities: week of May 25 making decorations, May 28 help install decorations, May 31 at 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Peel Compton Community Picnic, and June 1 – July 31: TWF at 12 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. help in Children's Department.
 1. Summer Reading Club themed scenery will be painted in the children's windows by Megan Hiers, a staff member who is also a professional artist and muralist.
 - iv. Response to Public Comment at April's meeting.
 1. Cynthia called on Hadi to report that the patron's suggestion for designating parking spots for staff deliveries of hold items was considered by the director and reviewed with the mayor and librarians. The suggestion is not supported due to limited parking spaces, small staff headcount, and existing high demand for holds (80,000 holds fulfilled in 2025, 80,000 more than prior year).
 2. As implemented last summer, BPL is suspending patron holds May 26 through August 10 due to demand on direct services during summer.
 3. The Board discussed and approved posting parking signs to encourage use by patrons during library hours and to hopefully serve as a deterrent for many who park here, but who are not library patrons. The group discussed how this could be the first step in attempting to alleviate parking issues with the understanding that non-library patrons' vehicles could not be monitored or towed.
 4. The group discussed other communication methods to promote peak busy library times, other public parking options, and ORT's route #17.
3. Ex-Officio – Standing Reports
- a. Friends of the Bentonville Library
 - i. Peggy Snyder reported that a financial report is not currently available due to Treasurer being out of town.
 - ii. Friends group is making name tags for volunteers using the glowforge in the Makerspace. The group is also working with Tara to create a new logo that will better align with the new library logo.
 - iii. Because the store can display so many more books due to the larger space, there are no plans to have a fall book sale.
 - iv. Friends have scheduled a holiday book sale preview for the Friends membership on Thursday, October 8, with a public sale on Friday, October 9.
 - v. Friends will have our July 6th and August 3rd meeting at 6 p.m., instead of 10 a.m. to attendance for encourage younger members and those who work during the day.
 - b. BPL Teen Advisory Board (TAB)
 - i. Jemal Janyyeva reported that TAB has been involved in genre nights, with Mia organizing all of them, such as Horror, Fantasy, and Romance themes. Also, we are planning on training the incoming volunteers for the summer sessions. Our last meeting in May with the current TAB membership is coming up, and we will elect a new President for the next year.
4. Ex-Officio – Additional Reports*
- a. Bentonville Library Foundation
 - b. Bentonville History Museum
 - c. Northwest Arkansas Genealogical Society

- d. Northwest Arkansas Community College
5. Cynthia asked library board members to write notes of thanks and encouragement for library volunteers. She provided some volunteer information for the group.
 - a. In 2025, 268 volunteers of all ages and backgrounds volunteered for Bentonville Public Library! Teens, adults, groups and junior partners volunteered 8,923 hours! This contribution is valued at \$310,431.
 - b. Library postcards and pens were provided.
 - c. Cynthia discussed being a BPL brand ambassadors and wants to hear ideas for a fall merchandising line to celebrated BPL's 20-year anniversary at our 405 South Main Street location.
6. Public Comments on Agenda Items (Limited Public Forum) – none.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at 5 p.m.

Adjournment

Michelle Evans moved, and Kimberly Seay seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Appendix

Library Advisory Board Bylaws and Rules of Order

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.