

Location

Bentonville Public Library (BPL)
Rotary Conference Room

Call to Order

Board Vice Chairperson, Michelle Evans, called the Library Advisory Board meeting to order at 5:05 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 McIntock	Bentonville Library Foundation
Nathan Pollet	Jamal Janyeva	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		Anne Farmer, guest
Tara Cloud Clark, Marketing Specialist		Tanya Sharp, guest
Sarah Hanst, Children's Librarian (Tween Services)		Tanner Martin, City IT

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The group reviewed the meeting minutes from May 6, 2026. Michele Stamps Pritchett moved, and Kimberly Seay seconded, to approve the minutes as presented. The meeting minutes from May 6, 2026 were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. Library Reports

- a. Programming & Marketing updates: Tara Cloud Clark, Marketing Specialist
 - i. Tara provided a brief recap of recent library programs: 50 people attended an Afternoon with Rick Atkinson; BPL provided a storytime at the Bentonville Farmers Market with 80 people joining the fun. Summer Reading and Summer Feeding is already yielding high numbers with 459 lunches served on day one – the most ever in one day. As of noon June 3: 1,600 readers registered for Summer Reading Challenge on Beanstack.

- ii. Tara gave an overview of events coming up: June 13 at 2:30 p.m. - Pie and Public Art is a panel representing Bentonville History Museum, City of Bentonville Planning Department, Public Art Advisory committee and involved citizen Tom Hoehn, and OZArt NWA with a public Art display in June in the Community Art Gallery.
- iii. Maker programs are popular but expensive, so BPL is considering ways to offset the cost. The Great Bentonville Craft-Off is a new multi-leveled adult program.
- iv. New Baby Storytime starts next week!
- v. Upcoming author visits: August 8 at 1 p.m. – Jerry Pallotta, author of Who Would Win series of middle grades books; September 13 (Sunday) – Ayana Gray, fantasy author of new YA book *Hawk and Sparrow*. September 15 – Hope Larson, a middle grade author/illustrator includes original work, as well as Wonder Woman and other DC Comics and Minecraft; and September 28 - Abby Burnett, in collaboration with Northwest Arkansas Genealogical Society, author of *Though Silent They Speak: An Overview of Arkansas Cemeteries & More*.
- vi. August 5: BPL is hosting AI for Libraries – a professional development for school and public librarians, led by a UAMS librarian with Friends of the Bentonville Library sponsoring lunch.
- vii. BPL's Make and Mingle 50+ at the new Adult Recreation Center (ARC): no ARC membership required and it's scheduled for the first Wednesdays of each month.
- viii. September 26: save the date for GeekCon.
- ix. Bentonville Film Festival (BFF) collaboration with BPL
 - 1. Thursday, June 18 at 1:30 p.m. - panel discussion Left Behind panel at BPL
 - 2. Thursday, June 18 at 6:00 p.m. - Left Behind screening at Momentary
 - 3. This is BFF's inaugural "Community Through Film" series with plans for a year-round series. BPL is taking the lead to demonstrate how it can expand to other libraries in the region (screenings there and panel here) with proposed grant and mini-grant opportunities.
- b. Librarian report: Sarah Hanst, Children's Librarian (Tween Services)
 - i. Sarah shared that BPL has been asked to partner with the 12th Annual Bentonville Film Festival to support the world premiere of Netflix's reimagining of Laura Ingalls Wilder's classic children's book *Little House on the Prairie*. Added a special edition of the Cover-to-Cover Book Club to read the original work and discuss plot, tone, and perspectives, and how it differs from norms we practice today. Participants in the discussion will receive two tickets to the world premiere at the film festival on Sunday, June 21. The library will also present a *Little House* Trivia Night, based on the original book, on Tuesday, June 16 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Registration is not required, but participation is limited to room capacity. The winning team will also receive tickets for the premiere.
 - ii. OZ Kids Bike and Book Fest in partnership with the Ozark Foundation and the Bentonville History Museum is Saturday, June 27 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Food, live music, crafts and decorations, culminating in a bike parade around the streets adjoining the library. We'll be joined this year by volunteers from the NWACC Bicycle Technician Program to do helmet checks, and a safety once-over for bicycles. We intend to maximize the use of our new outdoor space, utilizing the Walmart Foundation Public Veranda to showcase the band, and sidewalk level spaces to the end of our property for partners and hang-out space. Book giveaway sponsored by KPMG; bike giveaway provided by Pedal It Forward and sponsored by Ozark Foundation.

- iii. Summer reading is underway, and it's already shaping up to be our biggest one yet! Continuing with that theme, there are more tween programs than ever for middle schoolers.
 - iv. In addition to regular book club offerings, Tweens will have a regular Wednesday afternoon program to have fun and make friends this summer. Workshop Wednesdays are different themed craft projects just for Tweens throughout the summer. Examples include: make your own buttons, DIY book journals, make your own fantasy/adventure/book maps, and fabric wall hangings.
 - v. One-off programs collaborating with the Teens include a coloring club in June, and a visit from State Archaeologist Dr. Melissa Zabecki who'll discuss the state of archaeology in the Natural State, as well as what it takes to choose archaeology as a career in July.
 - vi. Our year-round book clubs are going strong! Cover to Cover is our "traditional" club reading middle grade fiction. Drawn Together, new this year, is an all-graphic novel book club (book clubs are sponsored by the Friends of the Library).
 - c. Administration updates: Hadi Dudley, Library Director
 - i. Hadi provided general updates on facilities, furniture, and property.
 - 1. Bookdrop project wrapped up in April, under budget.
 - 2. Lino floor repairs in April, additional repairs in children's dept are forthcoming due to water damage; door and window repair this week.
 - 3. Four new furniture groups are slated for repair and reupholstery – coordination with designer, manufacturer, fabric provider and furniture dealer is required.
 - a. All fabric, some reupholstery services, and transportation are provided at no charge to library; BPL is paying for some reupholstery work with local company for some pieces.
 - 4. All three stormwater gardens are receiving updates this spring / summer.
 - 5. Parking signs were approved by legal and BPD; the order is pending with print company. Once signs are delivered, they will be installed.
 - a. Newly updated content about parking, peak busy times, and Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) is featured on BPL's website and some program guides.
 - b. There are conversations in the City about construction of a parking garage at BPL. It will involve needs assessment, planning and engineering designs with pricing, as well as a combination of public and private funds to make it a reality (two to three year timeline).
 - ii. Standards for State Aid for Public Libraries
 - 1. Hadi mentioned that the draft rules are available to review online - <https://library.arkansas.gov/about-us/proposed-rules/> with public comment period through June 15, 2026.
 - 2. The Library will review with City legal department; current draft includes some rules that may pose difficulty with compliance related to procedural implications, content restrictions, and staff workload challenges.
 - iii. Volunteer opportunities: June 1 – July 31: TWF at 12 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. help in Children's Department.
- 2. Ex-Officio – Standing Reports
 - a. Friends of the Bentonville Library: Peggy Snyder reported the Friends' financial balance is \$81,9223. She noted that book sales are steady. A new logo will be debuted; it was

developed by Tara and aligns w Library branding. The Friends awarded five \$1,000 scholarships to BPL teen volunteers. The next Friends' meeting is Monday, July 6 at 6 p.m. This is group's first evening meeting to reach members who cannot attend day meetings.

- b. BPL Teen Advisory Board (TAB): no report.
- 3. Ex-Officio – Additional Reports*
 - a. Bentonville Library Foundation: no report.
 - b. Bentonville History Museum
 - i. Dana Doughty reported that the museum is excited about the upcoming public art program collaboration with BPL and the group will also be celebrating Bentonville's first mural, "The Legend of Hidden Harvest" by Randy Townzen (40th anniversary).
 - ii. The museum will host an activation at the OZ Kids Bike & Book Fest and recently loaned BPL some materials and created exhibit content for the themed display in the book drop space.
 - c. Northwest Arkansas Genealogical Society
 - i. Carol Miles reported that the society is excited about the joint author event with BPL. The group is working on volunteer recruitment.
 - d. Northwest Arkansas Community College: no report.
- 4. Library Advisory Board business – introductions, board discussion and approval
 - a. Update: NWACC ex-officio member – Michelle reported that Sharon Fox recently resigned from NWACC, so she will no longer serve as ex-officio member. Cynthia Cochran and Michelle visited with Anne Farmer who is interested in serving as the NWACC ex-officio representative. Anne is English Faculty and serves as the chair of English, Humanities and World Languages at NWACC.
 - b. Pending: Bentonville Schools ex-officio member – Michelle reported that she and Cynthia visited with two candidates and recommend Tanya Sharp to serve as the Bentonville Schools ex-officio representative. Tanya is Chief Operating Officer at Bentonville Schools.
 - c. Roland Smith moved, and Michele Stamps Pritchett seconded, to approve Anne Farmer (NWACC) and Tanya Sharp (Bentonville Schools) as ex-officio representatives to the Library Advisory Board. The members were approved.
- 5. Public Comments on Agenda Items (Limited Public Forum) – none.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at 5 p.m.

No meetings in July or August unless necessitated by library business.

Adjournment

Kimberly Seay moved, and Nathan Pollet seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:55 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 board meeting agenda items.

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