



City of Muscatine

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

The Library Board of Trustees meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. in the Library Conference Room

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Tony Loconsole called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. In addition to Loconsole, also present were Steve Truitt, Scott Comstock, Diana Gradert, Diana Boeding, Nora Dwyer, Mary Odell, Kraig Reed, and Stacy Beatty. Also present were Bobby Fiedler, Greg Benefiel, and Molly Garrett (Zoom).

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Beatty moved the agenda be approved as submitted. Seconded by Comstock. All ayes; motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Odell moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Reed. All ayes; motion carried.

4. RATIFY BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Gradert moved to ratify the library bills for May 20, 2026 and June 10, 2026. Seconded by Truitt.

Fiedler, speaking in reference to the bills for May 20, 2026, stated the entry on Page 2 for Minnesota parking was for the PLA Conference. He stated that on Page 3, his mileage reimbursement was for his trip to the Burlington Library.

Fiedler, speaking in reference to the library bills for June 10, 2026, stated the

entry for Sign Works was for the sign for the Teen Center. He further stated that they would be coming to the library on June 30, 2026 to change signage for the new fiscal year.

There was discussion concerning the programs found under Trusts on Page 2 of the bills.

Fiedler stated the General Fund shows quite a bit of funds remaining. He stated that after expenditures are taken out for the rest of the fiscal year, there should be approximately \$90,000 remaining. He stated that \$35,500 was approved by City Council to be rolled over into next year's budget to compensate for budget reductions. He noted that the reason for the large remaining amount is that LS&S could not spend all the allotted money (approximately \$20,000), which means the library is going to have more left over than originally thought. He stated he spoke with Leanna McCullough, who stated that once all of this fiscal year's bills are settled, this amount could be rolled over in the next fiscal year's budget as well. Fiedler stated she understood that money was left over due to the Baker Taylor issue, noting they went out of business in January. He stated he was thankful that Matt Marsden and Leanna McCullough were so understanding.

Fiedler, speaking in reference to the Trust Fund, stated that once the Summer Reading Program donations are used, it should drop back to approximately \$190,000.

Fiedler, speaking in reference to the Computer Fund, stated it would take approximately \$12,000 to replace some of the aging equipment in the library, such as the AWE computers in the Children's Department.

There was discussion concerning the Computer Rollover Fund.

Loconsole extended his thanks to Matt and Leanna for allowing the library to roll over its remaining funds.

Vote — All ayes; motion carried.

5. RECEIVE COMMUNICATION

6. COMMUNICATIONS - CITIZENS

7. STAFF LIAISON

Benefiel stated the library has a new intern (Grace), who is a marketing major. He stated she is doing a great job.

Fiedler stated she is doing a fantastic job.

Loconsole asked if she was at the Dinos at the Dome event, and Fiedler answered yes.

Fiedler stated her time at the library will give us an opportunity to see what having an internship would be like.

Loconsole asked if there were any high school students that would be interested in library operations. He stated that maybe they could also work at the library but not be on payroll.

Fiedler stated this would be something he could discuss with Becca Fillmore and Emerson Taylor.

There was further discussion on this matter.

Odell stated that summer would be an ideal time.

Benefiel stated his staff was looking forward to the new schedule that goes into effect on July 1, 2026.

8. FRIENDS' REPORT

A. No Friends Meeting in June Due to Dino Event

9. DIRECTORS' REPORT

Fiedler thanked Gradert for her years of service on the Board.

Gradert stated it was very interesting, and it had been her pleasure to serve.

Dwyer asked when Gradert began serving on the Board, and Fiedler stated 2015.

Library Changes/Communications Packet Update:

Fiedler stated all the information went out as planned. He stated that comments generated from the Facebook posts were very positive. He stated that citizens even offered ideas on how to help the situation. He stated that the staff did a good job putting the information out. He stated a call was put out for solicitations from citizens about their experiences at the library, which will be shared with City Council during the next budget season.

Fiedler stated the library is ready for the changes taking place on July 1, 2026.

Boeding stated the summer concerts are taking place and that people may have questions about the library being closed.

Fiedler stated the library was closed on Sunday. He noted there were issues with

the power, but the group had a small generator.

Gradert stated it was rare to see anyone going into the library.

Fiedler stated the biggest issue would be the weather because they would not be able to come into the library during inclement weather.

There was further discussion concerning this issue.

Dinos at the Dome Recap:

Fiedler gave an overview of the event. He stated it was a positive community event, and staff was relieved to hold the event as a kickoff to the Summer Reading Program.

Emerson Taylor stopped in and gave a brief update on the Summer Reading Program, stating that there are currently 704 kids signed up as well as 151 teens and 265 adults.

Taylor stated the first all-Spanish program takes place tonight.

There was discussion concerning the program activities.

Fiedler stated the event went really well, and the staff is glad it was done. He stated it helped set the tone for this year's program.

Library Internship:

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Patio Update:

Fiedler stated the library was pleasantly surprised to hear that the Carver Charitable Trust had approved their grant request of \$50,000 sooner than expected.

Fiedler stated that HNI would be making a decision on the library's grant request at its Foundation meeting in July, and we should hear from them at the end of July or early August.

Fiedler stated he sent letters to some of the city's corporations and in a few weeks would send out letters to other potential partners. He stated that once these letters have been sent, the project will be open to public contributions.

Dwyer asked what would happen if more money than needed is received.

Beatty asked about keeping money aside for maintenance and repairs.

Fiedler stated that could be done. He stated he could ask the anonymous donor if their funds could be used on other things pertaining to the patio project.

There was further discussion on the project.

Donation:

Fiedler stated a \$5,000 donation had been received from Holly Peterson, a long-time library patron. He stated it would go toward the patio project, which would allow for her to be recognized.

Library Holiday Closure:

Fiedler stated the library would be closed July 3–4, 2026 in observance of the 4th of July holiday.

Other:

Fiedler stated that Skinny's Barbeque would be using the library's stage for the Street Fest on Saturday, June 20, 2026. He noted that the library would have a table at the event.

Fiedler stated the library's LCD projector is going to be used for the McFarland family's services. He stated the community has been great in coming together to support the family.

Fiedler stated that group photos would take place in July when the new member is hopefully on board. He stated that the City Council would be voting on Thursday to approve the new member. He stated he would keep everyone posted.

Fiedler stated it would be nice to get a group photo today with Gradert.

10. BOARD TRAINING

- A. Will Start on Chapter 1 in July for New/Newer Board Members

11. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Nominate the FY27 Library Board of Trustees Slate of Officers/Vote on Approval:
President - Tony Loconsole

Vice President - Steve Truitt
Secretary - Kraig Reed

Loconsole read the request as submitted.

Odell moved the request be approved. Seconded by Dwyer. All ayes; motion carried.

12. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Request to Approve Annual Illinois Township Contracts for Library Services:
Drury - \$4,868.50
Buffalo Prairie - \$3,651.37
New Boston - \$2,693.27

Loconsole read the request as submitted.

Fiedler stated the agreements are pretty standard and include a 3% increase.

Odell asked if the numbers were based on the number of people in the townships.

Fiedler stated the agreements are approximately 40 years old and there has always been a 3% increase. He noted the residents of the townships do have access to materials in the library.

There was further discussion on this issue.

Loconsole stated the Illinois City Farmers Celebration is going to be held on August 8, 2026. He talked about the library having a table at the event, which would get the library out there.

Vote — All ayes; motion carried.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Gradert moved the meeting be adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Gradert stated the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library in West Branch is finishing up its extensive renovation project. She stated they have added interactive displays. She stated she wanted to let everyone know, noting that the library is really amazing for such a small town.

There was further discussion about the library.

Odell seconded Gradert's motion.

Vote - All ayes.

14. NEXT MEETING

A. July 15, 2026