



City of Muscatine

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, February 18, 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, Stacy Beatty, Diana Boeding, Nora Dwyer, Kraig Reed, Mary Odell, and Scott Comstock. Diana Gradert had an excused absence. Staff members present were Bobby Fiedler, Molly Garrett, and Greg Benefiel.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Odell moved to approve the minutes for the January 21, 2026 Board meeting. Seconded by Truitt. All ayes; motion carried.

4. RATIFY BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Beatty moved to ratify the bills for January 21, 2026 and February 2, 2026. Seconded by Odell.

Fiedler gave a brief overview of the bills dated January 21, 2026.

Dwyer asked how Yoga for Littles was going.

Fiedler stated it is a popular program, which started in October. He stated it is scheduled through May and then paused for the Summer Reading Program.

Boeding asked if it is held monthly, and Fiedler answered yes.

Fiedler, speaking in reference to the February 2, 2026 bills, stated that on Page 2 there is an entry for LS&S, which was for the purchase of books and databases.

Fiedler stated the library is starting to order from Brodart. He stated they feel they can spend all the funds for the current fiscal year.

Fiedler stated the final entry is for the first half of the payment due for the dinosaur activity, which will kick off the Summer Reading Program.

Fiedler stated that Emerson talked with the Quad City River Bandits, and they will have their mascot, Rascal the Raccoon, at the dinosaur activity, which will take place at the dome.

Fiedler, speaking in reference to the fund balances, stated the General Fund is in good shape.

Fiedler stated the Computer Fund has an approximate \$35,000 balance, but John Kreuzenstein stated the firewall needs to be replaced, which could be between \$5,000 and \$8,000. He stated a new firewall should last about seven years. He stated the Board will be asked to approve this expenditure sometime in March or April.

Loconsole asked if it would be replaced with new technology, and Fiedler stated it would be the 3800 model.

Fiedler stated the Trust Fund has a balance of about \$186,000.

Loconsole stated he felt Emerson should be recognized for the successful activities happening at the library. He stated they are good for the library, the community, and for the publicity.

Fiedler stated the library has received a number of donations and that Friends will be donating more this year (\$5,000).

Vote - All ayes; motion carried.

5. RECEIVE COMMUNICATION
6. COMMUNICATIONS - CITIZENS

7. STAFF LIAISON

Benefiel stated the gift card this month was given to Emerson for his handling of the bat issue at the library, which was followed by discussion.

8. FRIENDS' REPORT

Fiedler stated that the Friends group would be holding their annual meeting on March 4, 2026 from noon to 2:00 p.m. in Room 301 at the library. He stated everyone is welcome to attend.

Fiedler stated they would be holding their miniature golf tournament fundraiser on April 18, 2026 at the library.

Loconsole asked Fiedler to let the Board know if volunteers are needed.

Fiedler stated the Friends' copier would be replaced at their expense.

9. DIRECTORS' REPORT

FY 2026/2027 Budget Update:

Fiedler stated the budget is currently in a wait and see mode. He stated the library is still looking at a \$50,000 cut which would be offset by the \$35,000 backfill, resulting in an approximate \$14,000 budget cut for the library. He noted that several departments received cuts as well.

Fiedler stated we will not know what we are getting from the county until April.

Fiedler stated the City Administrator has proposed a levy of \$.22. He stated the City Council is mandated to levy \$.18 for the Health Benefit levy, which he explained. He stated the city is asking for an additional \$.04. He stated that without the \$.04, there would be a \$350,000 shortfall in the General Fund.

There was discussion about the property tax levy.

Loconsole stated that hopefully the City Council will understand the need for the \$.22 levy.

Fiedler stated the City Administrator feels positive that the City Council is in favor of the proposed levy amount; however, it is not a sure thing.

Loconsole asked if it would be beneficial for Board members to reach out to City Council.

Fiedler stated the Board members have every right to reach out to City Council but must do so as citizens and not as Board members. He stated it is important to keep that separation.

Loconsole asked if the levy dollars are used as a stop gap.

Fiedler stated it is necessary to submit a balanced budget and that is where the \$.04 comes into play.

Loconsole noted that other cities throughout the state are facing the same types of challenges.

2nd Session of 91st General Assembly:

Fiedler provided information about what was happening with the legislature, noting that everything changes so rapidly. He stated that Friday is the first funnel. He stated there are a lot of library bills on the docket, noting there are eight that could impact us. He stated he put together a summary of those bills as well as a sheet with talking points. He stated he does not have a good sense of what is going to make it through the legislature.

Fiedler stated the one thing the Board could do was form an Ad Hoc Committee, which could meet at any time.

Odell stated it would be interesting to see what happens after the first funnel.

Fiedler stated the second funnel would be March 20, 2026. He stated that last year there were two bills that made it through both funnels, but they were never introduced. He stated he feels it would be important to share with the legislators the negative impact these proposed bills could have on the library.

There was discussion concerning bill H720 and the impact it would have on the library should it pass.

Fiedler stated the March Board meeting could be moved to a date after the second funnel.

Boeding stated moving the meeting date would be good because she would then be able to attend.

Loconsole stated the Ad Hoc Committee could draft a statement or letter to the legislators on behalf of the library outlining the negative impact the proposed bills could have on the library, and Fiedler stated he was correct.

There was further discussion concerning the forming of the committee.

Loconsole asked if the Ad Hoc Committee would be created under New Business, and Fiedler answered yes.

Loconsole stated it would be helpful to have a sample document that the committee could work from, and Fiedler stated he could provide that information.

Patio Update:

Fiedler stated he needed to reach out to one more Board member for support of the project before getting the next step started.

Iowa Prevention Resource Center for Rural Health Update:

Fiedler stated the group is just now starting to reach out to groups to partner with. He stated the library would be included in future meetings to see if we might be able to help them.

Century Club Presentation:

Fiedler stated he gave a presentation to the group a couple of weeks ago. He stated they are very supportive of childhood literacy and are interested in Friends as well.

State Library Accreditation:

Fiedler stated that if the Board approves the ADA checklist presented later in the agenda, the application would be submitted tomorrow.

Other Business:

The library is preparing guidelines for dealing with ICE should it become necessary.

Fiedler stated the library is also in the process of preparing an AI policy for patrons. He stated people need to be made aware that AI is not always accurate.

Beatty stated that AI hurts the environment.

There was further discussion on AI.

Fiedler stated the library received a nice donation from HNI for office furniture, which was used in Molly's office, as well as some nice shelving units. He stated the library has received a lot of furniture from HNI, which has been great.

Fiedler stated he had received a call from Lisa Lewis, who lives in the Oscar

Grossheim home, concerning the barn behind her house that the city was going to demolish. He stated the city did not know the barn was an historical structure and has given Ms. Lewis an extension on making repairs to it.

10. BOARD TRAINING

A. Begin Review of Library Trustees Handbook at the March 18, 2026 Board Meeting

Fiedler stated the Board would begin reviewing the Library Trustees Handbook at its March meeting in order to bring everyone up to speed.

Odell noted she had taken the IPiB training, and Fiedler stated Fran would log her hours.

11. OLD BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request Approval of Priority 2 ADA Checklist for Submission for Library's Three-Year Accreditation Application

Loconsole read the request as submitted.

Dwyer moved the request be approved. Seconded by Reed.

Fiedler stated the checklist is pro forma, noting ADA requirements at the library are up to standard.

Vote - All ayes; motion carried.

B. Request Approval of ALA Attendance Costs (June 25-29) for Robert Fiedler in the Amount of \$2,283

Loconsole read the request as submitted.

Odell moved the request be approved. Seconded by Comstock.

Fiedler pointed out the ALA discount. He stated he would like to attend this conference because it is not known what could happen in the future.

Vote - All ayes; motion carried.

Beatty moved to approve the creation of the Library Advocacy Ad Hoc Group. Seconded by Dwyer. All ayes; motion carried.

Beatty moved to approve the volunteers to the Library Advocacy Ad Hoc Group (Loconsole, Beatty, Dwyer, and Truitt). Seconded by Dwyer. All ayes; motion carried.

Beatty moved to change the Board meeting date to March 25, 2026. Seconded by Reed. All ayes; motion carried.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Truitt moved the meeting be adjourned at 5:31 p.m. Seconded by Comstock. All ayes; motion carried.

14. NEXT MEETING

A. March 18, 2026