City of Muscatine

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, March 25, 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, Nora Dwyer (Zoom), Stacy Beatty (Zoom), Kraig Reed, and Diana Boeding. Mary Odell and Diana Gradert had excused absences. Staff members present were Bobby Fiedler and Molly Garrett. City Council member Peggy Gordon was also present.
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
   Comstock moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Truitt. All ayes; motion carried.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
   Reed moved to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2026 Board meeting. Seconded by Truitt. All ayes; motion carried.
4. RATIFY BILLS FOR PAYMENT
   Boeding moved to ratify the bills for February 18, 2026, March 4, 2026, and March 18, 2026. Seconded by Comstock.

   Fiedler, speaking in reference to the bills for February 18, 2026, stated the PLA entry on Page #3 is for Emma Stoffer who will be attending the conference with Molly and Emerson.

Fiedler, speaking in reference to the bills for March 4, 2026, stated the third item on Page #1 was for Emerson's collaboration with the Muscatine Symphony, which was great. He stated that on Page #2 of the bills was an entry for $172.98, which was for the purchase of a new display cabinet for the library's collection of yearbooks. He stated the original case was from the old library.

Fiedler, speaking in reference to the bills for March 18, 2026, stated the ALA charges are for his attendance at the conference in Chicago.

Fiedler stated the General Fund, Trust Fund, and Computer Rollover Fund were all in great shape and gave a brief overview of each one.

Loconsole stated he was excited about this year's Summer Reading Program. He stated it was nice to see the continued support from the public and the sponsorship being received.

Vote — All ayes; motion carried.

5. RECEIVE COMMUNICATION

6. COMMUNICATIONS - CITIZENS

   Peggy Gordon stated she was present at the meeting as a citizen, ex-Board member, and member of City Council. She thanked everyone on the Board and stated the average citizen does not know what you do. She stated she was a firm believer that the Board should stay in charge of the decisions of the library.

   Gordon stated budgets would continue to be tough into the future. She stated the tax rate for next fiscal year's budget would be $.22, noting that $.18 of that amount is a mandated amount, which she explained. Gordon stated cuts had to be made at the library and other departments as well.

   Gordon then talked about the legislative bill amendment and how it would affect the library. She asked that folks become vocal advocates of the city. She stated the library needs more advocates.

   Gordon then talked about the Hotel/Motel Tax.

   Loconsole stated he appreciated Gordon's support and noted that navigating the city's budget is a long and tough process.

   Gordon stated the city has a great library and advocacy helps.

   Fiedler stated the library receives approximately $148,000 from the Hotel/Motel Tax.

Gordon encouraged everyone to attend the public forums. She stated that if you see Bobby Kaufmann in Wilton, do not be afraid to talk to him.

Reed stated emails could also be sent.

7. STAFF LIAISON

Garrett stated that Rachel Scholze is leaving the library, and we are finalizing the hiring of a new employee.

Fiedler stated Rachel would be staying on as a substitute.

Dwyer stated that Kaufmann is the House Majority Leader.

8. FRIENDS' REPORT

Fiedler stated the Friends group held its Annual Meeting on March 4, 2026. He stated they reviewed what they had done over the past year and then re-elected its current slate of officers with one added new member as follows:

Xiaowen Guo, President
Pat Grimm, Vice President,
Kathy Kuhl, Marketing
JoAnn Carlson
JoAnna Kelly, Secretary
Greg Benefiel, Treasurer
Robert Fiedler

Fiedler stated that at the regular meeting, the appointment of the officers was approved. He noted that new member, JoAnna Kelly, was appointed secretary.

Fiedler then talked about the golf fundraising event that will take place on April 18, 2026 at the library. He stated the cost would be $10 for individuals and $15 for families. He stated each of the holes would be named after one of the library programs.

Fiedler stated that Kuhl had asked if anyone would want to sponsor a hole, which could be done at the front desk or through him. Boeding stated she would sponsor Hole #8. Loconsole and Dwyer stated they would sponsor Holes #9 and #7, respectively.

Fiedler noted that last year's event was a success.

9. DIRECTORS' REPORT

FY27 Budget Update:

There was discussion concerning the county's funding.

Gordon stated she went to Monday's Supervisor's meeting, which was not well attended.

2nd Session of the 91st Assembly:

Fiedler stated that, as mentioned in his report, the second funnel was on March 20, 2026. He stated, however, that as of last night, there was an amendment made to SF2432, which passed the Senate on March 10, 2026, and dealt with eliminating city boards of health. He stated House Amendment H8260 seeks to attach a new section to SF2432, which would revive and try to keep alive the stalled HF2622 Omnibus library bill. He then explained how the library would be affected if the amendment is passed, noting that he does not have a good sense about whether it will go through.

Fiedler stated that now is the time to talk to the legislature, which has about 18–19 days left this year. He stated he would keep the Board posted.

Gordon explained the telephone process.

Patio Update:

There was discussion concerning the patio project.

State Library Accreditation:

Fiedler stated the accreditation report was accepted by the state, and we are done for another three years.

Sonic Wall Update:

Fiedler stated that the IT Manager was able to get the firewall for less than $5,000 plus two years of free support. He stated the cost was paid for out of the Computer Replacement Fund.

Easter Sunday:

Fiedler stated the library would be closed on Easter Sunday, which is not a paid holiday. He stated employees would need to make up their time, take a vacation day, or use a floating holiday.

Burlington Public Library Training Day:

Fiedler stated he would be attending this event on April 6, 2026.

There was further discussion concerning SF2432 and Amendment H8260.

10. BOARD TRAINING

A. Iowa Library Trustees Handbook — Chapter 10 — Evaluating the Library Director

Fiedler stated that in the interest of time, he would be happy to take any questions the Board might have regarding Chapter 10 of the Iowa Library Trustees Handbook. He stated this chapter lays everything out and could be used as a reference in the future when evaluating his services to the library.

Boeding asked where the handbook came from, and Fiedler stated it came from the state.

Loconsole stated it was good to review this chapter. He told everyone they should not hesitate to raise questions about the evaluation process.

Fiedler stated that during his evaluations, he would provide the Board with his previous evaluation and the library's goals and objectives, which provides a good background.

11. OLD BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request to Approve New AI Usage Policy

Loconsole read the request as submitted.

Fiedler stated he used AI to help create this policy. He stated the main purposes of the proposed policy are for patron safety and staff liability.

Loconsole stated AI policies are nothing new. He asked everyone to be mindful of how fast things change.

Reed moved to approve the request as submitted. Seconded by Truitt. All ayes; motion carried.

B. Request to Approve the Friends of the Musser Public Library to Serve as the Official Fundraising Body for the Patio Project, with funds raised designated exclusively for that purpose and fundraising efforts conducted in coordination with the Musser Public Library Board of Trustees

Loconsole read the request as submitted.

Truitt moved the request be approved as submitted. Seconded by Boeding.

Fiedler stated the Friends approved this request this past week, which would prepare us for other donations. He stated donations would go through the Friends/Community Foundation, which would make it easier for the library to get other funds. He noted that any funds coming in would be for the patio project only.

Dwyer excused herself from voting as her husband is the president of the Community Foundation Board.

Beatty asked if this would need to be done for all donations if the legislative amendment passes, and Fiedler stated that would be his recommendation.

Vote — All ayes; motion carried. (Dwyer did not vote)

13. ADJOURNMENT
Truitt moved the meeting be adjourned at 5:34 p.m. Seconded by Reed. All ayes; motion carried.

14. NEXT MEETING

A. April 15, 2026