

Bozeman Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting

June 18, 2025

Minutes

Attendance: Library Board Trustee Chair Stewart Mohr, Trustees Pam Henley (Zoom), Mike Long (Zoom), Ken Spencer & Mike Redburn; Bozeman Public Library (BPL) Director Susan Gregory; Administrative Assistant Lauranna Cossins; Department Heads Carmen Clark, Ellie Newell, Ben Nielsen, & Sarah Widger; Library Friends & Foundation Director Janay Johnson; City Commissioner Jennifer Madgic.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Stew Mohr at 4pm.

Approval of the Minutes

Action: Trustee Spencer moved to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2025, Library Board meeting as submitted. Trustee Redburn seconded. There was no further discussion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as submitted.

Action

Library Staff Training Day, Thursday Oct 2, 2025 (date change) & FY 2026 Holiday and Library Closure calendar.

Action: Trustee Redburn moved to approve the Fiscal year 2026 Holiday and Library Closure schedule to include the Oct 2, 2026, Staff Training Day. Trustee Spencer seconded. The Board voted unanimously to approve the FY 2026 Holiday and Library Closure calendar.

Discussion

Fiscal Year 2026 Library Operating Budget summary- A printout was provided to the Trustees prior to the meeting. Director Gregory said that this is just a reminder of the FY 2026 Budget that the Library Board approved last year based on the City's new two-year budget cycle. FY26 is year two of the cycle. The Library had no changes to our budget. Gregory also highlighted the substantial annual contribution that Gallatin County makes to the Library budget for County library service due to the City-County interlocal agreement established in the 1990's. The contribution for FY26 is \$955,754.

Reports

Director's report- Director Gregory provided her report to the Library Board prior to the meeting. Highlights were reviewed. Gregory asked the Trustees to let her know if they had any questions.

Highlights- The Assistant Library Director interview process has begun. We are working with City HR to do a national and regional search. The "Free Summer Lunch" program just started. It is being funded by the Library Friends and Foundation and is in partnership with HRDC and the Gallatin Valley Food Bank to prepare the nutritional lunches.

Correspondence highlights

- "I love the puzzle and plant exchanges! Would love paper cups for transporting plants, if possible. Thank you."
- "HIRE BETTER STAFF"
- "More computers!"
- "Be open to allowing a tiny library to connect even out of state; I've exhausted my hometown's library!"
- "You should rent out laptops \$1 hour up to 3 to 4 hours."
- "I wish there was read with a dog every day."
- Patron didn't like that she could only take 2 "Most Wanted" new books at a time. She didn't want to leave a note but registered her complaint verbally with Ellie in the Children's room.

Commission Liaison Update – Commissioner Madgic stated there has been an increase in hateful rhetoric that the City Commissioners and City administration have received from some members of the public recently. She commented that it's important to disagree freely about issues but it's very important to be civil and kind in communication.

Friends & Foundation Report – Director Johnson stated that they have just executed a Letter of Intent on the purchase of property on the west side of town today. There was a lot of back and forth, but a price has been agreed upon and the next step is that the Foundation has 30 days to present a purchase sales agreement, which then triggers a 120-day due diligence period. So, things are moving forward. The Friends of the Library Book sale grossed around \$14,000 last weekend. It's a little smaller than previous sales. The sale was held in the Library and space was limited.

Adult Services and Outreach Department Head Ben Nielsen provided a presentation to the Library Board regarding his department and what they do.

There being no further business, Trustee Mohr adjourned the meeting at 5:10 pm.