

Bozeman Public Library

Library Board of Trustees February 18, 2026

Minutes

Attendance: Library Board Chair Ken Spencer, Trustees Mike Long, Stew Mohr, Pam Henley (via zoom) and Mike Redburn; Bozeman Public Library (BPL) Director Susan Gregory; Assistant Director Becky Kasten; Administrative Assistant Lauranna Cossins; Department Heads Ellie Newell, Ben Nielsen, and Sarah Widger; Library Friends & Foundation Director Janay Johnson, Commission Liaison Jennifer Madgic

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Ken Spencer at 4pm.

Public Comment- None

Recognition of Library Staff 2025 MSL Certification award recipients: Megan Bruggemann in attendance; recognition in absentia of Certification recipients Jennifer Lemon, Elianna Burnim, Carmen Clark and Katie Biehl.

Approval of the Minutes

Action: Trustee Long moved to approve the Minutes from January 21, 2026, Library Board meeting as submitted. Trustee Mohr seconded. There was no further discussion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as submitted.

Action Items

Library Operating Budget request for FY27-FY29 -Board approval needed before submission to City Administration and City Commission.

Action: Trustee Long moved to approve the Library Operating Budget request for the City FY27-FY2029 Biennial Budget. Clarifying questions regarding changes from previous years were answered. Trustee Mohr seconded. There was no further discussion. The Board voted unanimously to approve requests as presented.

Reports

Correspondence Highlights presented by Director Gregory.

“Bring back the Paperback Books.”

“The snacks/drinks are sugary, full of chemicals stabilizers and unhealthy for all of us. Please source responsible items, happy to help you with this.”

“Make more study rooms.”

“Thanks for doing a good job!”

“Can you please get a water bottle filling station and do something about people drinking in the Library?”

Director’s Report- Director Gregory provided her report to the Library Board prior to the meeting. Gregory pointed out that we are moving forward with having security cameras installed within the Library and in the parking lot. We already have cameras on the north and west entrances to the lobby. We are working with the City IT Director to determine the best installation locations and camera options.

Department Reports - provided in the Board packet prior to the meeting. Highlights were shared by the four Department Heads.

Public Services Head Sarah Widger provided a Library STATS sheet to the Board. Sarah reported that we have heard from at least one patron that library attendance is declining in general, but that is not true for the Bozeman Public Library. In reviewing January – December 2025 calendar year, the Library’s total visitors were 337,292, compared to the 2024 total, which was 324,131. We have seen an increase in visits. We had a total of 5790 new Library cards, which did not include the new Bookmobile cards: those total 219, up from 164 in 2024. The mobile library is very busy! Overall circulation, including online and Bookmobile circulation, was slightly more than 1,000,000 for the 2025 calendar year. This is the first time that's ever happened for Bozeman Public Library.

The traveling Anne Frank exhibit will be up in the Library’s gallery for the month. Kate Adams and Kate Holloway are both working very hard to get teen volunteers to serve as docents for the exhibit.

Youth Services Department Head Ellie Newell reported that the Children’s Department renovation plans are moving forward. Susan, Janay and City Assistant Manager Jon Henderson are working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Library Foundation regarding financial responsibility for the project; the project is being paid for by the Foundation, with contribution from County Bozeman Public Library capital funds. The MOU will be presented to the City Commission on their consent agenda in the coming weeks. At the end of March, noted children’s author and illustrator Rosemary Wells will be here. Registration for this event is 30 days in advance. This is necessary due to space constraints in the Community room.

Friends & Foundation Report – Director Johnson stated that she and Susan will host 2 interns from the U.S. State Department’s Young Southeast Asian Leadership Initiative (YSEALI) program. These two young professionals will work with Janay in the Foundation & Friends, and with Susan and her staff in the Library, March 16 - April 9th. They are from Singapore and Timor-Leste.

The Friends Book Sale is this weekend.

Commission Liaison Update – City Commissioner Madgic shared that this is the time of year for FY27-FY29 Budget discussions between City departments and City administration. Madgic is attempting to cycle the new City Commissioners to Library Board meetings to familiarize them with Library operations.

The Library Board attended the annual City of Bozeman Ethics Training, conducted by Director Gregory. The annual City Ethics training for both staff and City board members is to highlight the possibility of conflicts of interest between the use of public office for private gain.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm by Chair Spencer.