

**Bozeman Public Library**  
**Library Board of Trustees**

**January 21, 2026**

**Minutes**

Attendance: Library Board Chair Ken Spencer, Trustees 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 Carmen Clark, Ellie Newell and Sarah Widger; Library Friends & Foundation Director Janay Johnson, Commission Liaison Jennifer Madgic

Not Present; Trustee Mike Long

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

**Public Comment**

**Approval of the Minutes**

**Action:** Trustee Mohr moved to approve the Minutes from the November 19, 2025, Library Board meeting as submitted. Trustee Redburn seconded. Correction to Minutes: Trustee Henley was not present. There was no further discussion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Minutes as submitted.

**Action Items**

Library Closure for Library Staff Training Day on Wednesday, May 6, 2026.

**Action:** Trustee Mohr moved to approve Library closure on **May 6, 2026**, for All Staff Training Day. Trustee Redburn seconded. There was no further discussion. The Board voted unanimously to approve.

**Reports**

**Correspondence** Highlights were presented by Director Gregory.

“Water station w/ filtered water please.”

“More comfy and open areas!”

“I don’t have a suggestion- just absolute praise for the amazing use of a building. My library card expired & I had to come in, I am so GLAD I did. This is the most awesome Library. Thank you so much!”

“I don’t think eating food while on a computer should be allowed. It’s annoying to sit next to someone chomping and the potential to spill and damage the keyboard and make a sticky mess is too great.”

“In the teen corner, can we get a space for book recommendations and favorite books? This would be helpful - include a space for the two and a space for certain types of requests for recommendations.”

“Thank you for being an inclusive space for everyone.”

**Director’s Report-** Director Gregory provided her report to the Library Board prior to the meeting.

Gregory provided an overview of the safety incident that happened two weeks ago with a patron experiencing a mental health crisis, and the resulting evacuation of the building. The patron got into an altercation with another person and announced that he had a bomb in his backpack. (There was no bomb.) She discussed the work that we are doing with our City Attorney to ban this person from the Library property permanently, based on the threat to the public and staff. The Library staff did extremely well in the moment of the threat. The routine trainings that we do on emergency evacuations and de-escalation came in handy. We were able to move everyone out of the Library quickly without anyone complaining or getting hurt in the process. We have now increased the Invictus security officer presence in the Library to every day, Monday thru Friday, for 4 hours a day. This is until the end of our fiscal year in June.

We are in the process of preparing our FY27-FY29 personnel and operations budget requests for review by the City Administration and Finance office. We hope to present you with a draft budget request for the Library in March, after it's been reviewed in the City Finance office, if not earlier. We are requesting increased amounts of funding to pay for more security officers. We are also working with our City IT Director, Facilities Superintendent and Bozeman Police administration to install security cameras within the Library and in the parking lot this spring. We currently have cameras in our lobby that focus on the west and north entrances to the building.

**Department Reports** were provided in the Board packet prior to the meeting. Highlights were shared by the Department Heads in attendance. Public Services Department Head Sarah Widger said that there were 65 applicants for the open Library Aid position that recently closed. Collection Management Department Head Carmen Clark highlighted e-resources growth due to patron demand. People are using Newsbank and online editions of the Bozeman Daily Chronicle and The New York Times, in particular. Youth Services Department Head Ellie Newell updated the Trustees on the feedback we received from the public on surveys about the proposed renovation that our architects distributed in November: top comments from caregivers and kids said they love their library, but it's often overcrowded and too many bodies are in the small space. They value both the collection and the play spaces in the Children's room, specifically.

**Friends & Foundation Report** – Director Johnson provided a quick run through of the results of their recent Feasibility Study, via PowerPoint. Johnson explained that they wanted to assess the community's enthusiasm and level of support for a branch Library on the west side of Bozeman. The object was to get more information about potential donor support and potential roadblocks to the proposed branch. The Foundation and Friends, as well as Library Administration, want to build the idea of ownership and enthusiasm for this eventual project. Johnson said that about 100 donors were invited to give feedback, with 46 giving in-person interviews. An electronic survey went to a broader cross section of donors. The study revealed that there is potential for \$12 - \$15 million in support for a proposed branch at this time, while the goal of \$25 million in donor funds could likely be achieved in several years' time.

**Commission Liaison Update** – City Commissioner Jennifer Madgic shared that Joey Morrison was just appointed and sworn in as Bozeman's new mayor. The City Commission and City Directors had a public retreat last week to set the Commission's priorities for the coming year. Madgic said that she and Director Gregory discussed the Library's goal of a future west Bozeman branch and the recent purchase by the Bozeman Public Library Foundation and Friends of a land parcel in the new Urban Farms development for the proposed branch.

#### **FYI/ Discussion**

Children's Department Renovation Update- A PowerPoint presentation was provided by Youth Services Department Head Ellie Newell, in which she highlighted the guiding principle of this Children's renovation project as "a library space for children that is safe, durable accessible, flexible and playful."

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20pm by Board Chair Spencer.