

Minutes of the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library Board of Directors

Location: BVMPL Missouri River Room; 515 North Fifth Street

Present: Library Board of Directors (Library Board) Members: Dianna Kindseth, President; Mike Fladeland, Vice President; Nancy Guy, Justin Hughes, and Mike LaLonde

Also Present: Christine Kujawa, Library Director; Elizabeth Jacobs, Assistant Library Director; and Bea Kaiser, Administrative Office Manager; guest Bob Bartosh

The June 19, 2025, Library Board meeting was called to order by D. Kindseth, President, at 12:03 pm.

The May 20, 2025, minutes had been mailed out in advance. M. Fladeland moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by M. LaLonde. Motion carried.

The vendor invoices for June 2025, along with the May financial reports, had been mailed out in advance. Following discussion, M. Fladeland moved to approve the June 2025 vendor invoices. Seconded by N. Guy. Motion carried. Following discussion, M. LaLonde moved to accept the May financial reports. Seconded by J. Hughes. Motion carried.

Library Director's report:

- C. Kujawa is working with The Gifted Bean Coffee House owner, Matt McMerty, on some library-owned equipment that needs replacement.
- C. Kujawa and D. Kindseth attended the 2026 City Budget Committee meeting on June 11, 2025. They will attend the Burleigh County Budget Committee meeting next Tuesday.
- Restroom renovation project bid documents will be published starting this week, and the timeline has been updated. Next week E. Jacobs and Lynn Bryntesen, Building and Grounds Manager, will attend the pre-bid meeting and tour with architects. Bids will be opened on July 8, 2025. If the lowest bid varies from the Bismarck Library Foundation Inc.'s (BLF) anticipated amount, the BLF Board will meet on July 9, 2025. The Library Board will hold a special meeting on July 10, 2025, to consider approval of the low bidder.
- The annual performance review for C. Kujawa, to be completed by the Library Board President and Vice President, is pending due to an update of the City's review form.
- Staff job descriptions are being updated to match the city template and consistency of wording, supervisors and staff will review the documents. The Library Board has already reviewed and approved C. Kujawa's updated job description in recent action.
- The brush carpet in the lobby has been replaced with donated funds, costing under \$10,000.
- Local artist Crystal Tretbar adorned the Sixth Street library sidewalk with book and reading related art, donated funds subsidized this project.
- Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health will partner with the library for additional movement related sidewalk art on Avenue B.
- E. Jacobs and Public Information Specialist Kevin Tengesdal created a brand standards manual to be used for graphics and communications.

- While SB2307 was vetoed by Governor Armstrong, reliable sources have shared that legislators plan to continue the censorship effort in the next session. C. Kujawa has been re-elected to the Freedom to Read Foundation Board for a two-year term, with access to First Amendment lawyers and professionals for consultation.

For the Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc. (BLF), J. Hughes reported:

- Reflections on the Novel Night event were deemed successful, with the implemented changes being well received.
- Joyce Hinman is the new BLF President.
- The BLF Board approved a pledge to support the restroom renovation project in the amount of \$250,000 with an additional \$50,000 overage if needed. All BLF members have also pledged their support through personal donations.
- B. Bartosh shared that the first draft of the restroom renovation fundraising brochure has been reviewed. K. Tengesdal will revise it, and it will be reviewed again in July. Approximately \$48,000 in cash donations have been added to the BLF endowment fund money market account earmarked for the project.

For the Friends of the Bismarck Public Library (FOL), E. Jacobs reported:

- The FOL Board approved a commitment of \$30,000 towards the restroom renovation campaign.
- A one-day book sale was held in conjunction with the summer reading kickoff, another small-scale sale will be held on July 18, 2025.
- Local artist Mel Gordon painted a mural in the Children's Library preschool discovery area, funded by FOL.

Other Business:

- Public Comment Policy:
C. Kujawa explained that Senate Bill 2180 will be effective August 1, 2025, relating to public comment policies for local government boards. A draft of the City's public comment policy was shared for input from the Library Board. Following discussion, C. Kujawa will consolidate comments, summarize, and share with the policy working group for consideration.
- M. LaLonde was commended for his service and dedication on the Library Board.

A special Library Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 12:00pm
The next regular Library Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 24, 2025, at 12:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bea Kaiser
Administrative Office Manager

Christine Kujawa
Library Director