

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, Mike LaLonde and Justin Hughes

Also Present: Christine Kujawa, Library Director; Elizabeth Jacobs, Assistant Library Director; Bea Kaiser, Administrative Office Manager; and guest Bismarck City Administrator Jason Tomanek

The April 24, 2025, Library Board meeting was called to order by D. Kindseth, President, at 12:00 pm.

The March 27, 2025, minutes had been mailed out in advance. J. Hughes moved to approve the amended minutes. Seconded by M. LaLonde. Motion carried.

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

Library Director's report:

- The architect for the restroom renovation projected that the bid documents will be finalized the week of April 28, then published through the City. Barring unforeseen delays, bids will be received the week of May 20. Upon receipt of the bids, C. Kujawa will request a pause to determine if the amount aligns with the architect's estimate and if fundraising plans are affected.
- C. Kujawa shared updates on SB 2307, including a link to Governor Armstrong's veto message. C. Kujawa and N. Guy attended the live Plains Talk Podcast event at Peacock Alley on Wednesday, April 23, in which Governor Armstrong was interviewed about his veto decision. C. Kujawa spoke with Governor Armstrong and thanked him for the veto action. The Senate will vote on overriding the veto this afternoon. A thank you message will be sent to Governor Armstrong from the Library Board, and another from library supporters.
- C. Kujawa explained recent conversations with the City Attorney regarding presenter liability insurance. Direction has been given that movement-related programs require liability insurance coverage of \$2 million per event. Presenters are generally local citizens who receive small stipends to provide library programs. They would lose money by absorbing additional insurance costs, based on quotes from the library's insurance agent Kramer Agency and Progressive Insurance. J. Hughes requested that J. Tomanek forward the state law specifying the requirement. J. Tomanek requested that C. Kujawa research other ND public libraries. The ND Insurance Commissioner might also be contacted for guidance. J. Tomanek will speak with Amanda Yellow at the Event Center for additional information.
- Bismarck City Commissioner Mike Connelly forwarded a citizen comment about seeing people who are homeless in the library. C. Kujawa met with the Head of Security to ensure processes align with library procedures and policies. The response to Commissioner Connelly was shared with the Library Board, J. Tomanek, and the City Attorney. C. Kujawa explained

that guidance from the City Attorney and Police Department are followed. Great care is taken to be respectful, not infringing on patron rights to access. Focus remains on safety and limiting disruption of services.

- Upcoming events:
 - Prairie Public is showing a partial documentary screening of “Free For All: The Public Library” today at 2:00 pm in Room A.
 - Families Around the World event will be held Monday, April 28, 2025, at 6:30 pm. Various cultures will be represented with dancing, food samples, and information tables.
 - The Teen HQ welcome brochure was shared.
- The 2026 Budget Committee meeting has been scheduled, D. Kindseth and C.Kujawa will attend.
- Midco has offered to produce a commercial for the library, free of charge, that will air on cable TV. C. Kujawa and E. Jacobs have been in discussions with the production team.

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

- Usual business was discussed.
- Plans continued for the Novel Night event, with a theme of thanks, library support, and encouragement to become more familiar with library services.
- Legislative advocacy and guidance in messages to the public and legislators were discussed.

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

- No April Board meeting was held.
- A one-day book sale will be held Wednesday, May 28, 2025, from 10am-2 pm, in conjunction with the summer reading kickoff.
- Volunteers will help with Families Around the World and the Band Night Parade.
- Library staff have formed a Librarypalooza committee, the event is sponsored by the FOL and will be held August 14, 2025.

Other Business:

- Nomination Committee report:
 - N. Guy stated that the committee met and reviewed the submitted Library Board application, finding the applicant qualified and supporting the library’s guiding principles. The application will be shared with the Library Board, followed by a vote at the May 20, 2025, meeting, to allow time for City Commission review and approval. The application process is open year-round and the form is available on the library’s website.

The next regular Library Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 12:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bea Kaiser
Administrative Office Manager

Christine Kujawa
Library Director