

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: Justin Hughes, President; Mike Fladeland, Vice President; Bob Bartosh, and Dianna Kindseth

Also Present: Christine Kujawa, Library Director; Elizabeth Jacobs, Assistant Library Director; Bea Kaiser, Administrative Office Manager; and guest Keli McDonald, Head of Burleigh County Library (BCL)

Not Present: Nancy Guy

The April 23, 2026, Library Board meeting was called to order by J. Hughes, President, at 12:03pm.

There were no appearances for public comment.

The March 26, 2026, minutes had been mailed out in advance. D. Kindseth moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by M. Fladeland. Motion carried.

The vendor invoices for April 2026, along with the March financial reports, had been mailed in advance. Following discussion, M. Fladeland moved to approve the April 2026 vendor invoices. Seconded by D. Kindseth. Motion carried. Following discussion, B. Bartosh moved to accept the March financial reports. Seconded by M. Fladeland. Motion carried.

Library Director's report:

- Phase 2 of the restroom renovation project is on track. The progress report will be forwarded to Library Board members upon receipt. The demolition of the lobby restroom will be next week. Floor epoxy will potentially occur on May 8, 2026. If so, ample notice will be provided to patrons and staff. The estimated final completion date is now August 30, 2026, allowing time for final payments and punch list items to close out the project.
- Prairie Public and ACLU of North Dakota partnered for a screening of "The Librarians" last night, which included a panel discussion and was well attended.
- Families Around the World event will be held on Monday, April 27, 2026, at 6:30 pm. Various cultures will be represented with dancing, food samples, and information tables.
- 31:8 Project will partner with the library to facilitate a discussion on "Cracked Surface" by John-Michael Lander. The event will be in Room A on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, from 6-8pm.
- Staff will participate in the Band Night Parade on Friday, May 8, 2026, promoting the summer reading theme "Unearth Your Story". The summer reading kickoff will be held on May 27, 2026.
- The 2027 budgets will be available for review for action at the May 28, 2026, Library Board meeting.
- The Nominating Committee will discuss potential candidates for the upcoming Library Board member vacancies at the next meeting.

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

- To date, the Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc. (BLF) has raised \$494,713.73 for the project, with fundraising efforts continuing.
- At the April 10, 2026, Library Foundation Board meeting, 3 new directors were elected, and 2 had terms ending.
- The Novel Night fundraising event will be held on April 24, 2026.
- Kristi Simenson, Library Foundation Office Manager, will retire on or about June 30, 2026.

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

- The FOL will be presented with the Pearce Business Award at Novel Night. They will have a membership table to welcome new members. The group has contributed to the library since 1992.
- The online merchandise store has gone live and can be accessed through the library website; FOL receives a portion of the proceeds.

Other Business:

- K. McDonald presented at the Burleigh County Commission meeting a recap of 2025 for the BCL, commemorating 50 years of BCL service.
 - Yesterday, Library Outreach Day was celebrated with a Library Joy Tour, featuring new stops and activities.
 - Spring and summer activities included 183 stops at 55 locations. Special events include story time in the park, partnering with an ice cream truck, BisMarket, and story walks.
 - They help to maintain Little Free Libraries in the county.
 - August is a time for wrapping up internal projects, weeding materials, inventory, etc.

The next regular Library Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 12:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 12:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bea Kaiser
Administrative Office Manager

Christine Kujawa
Library Director