

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 GERING PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Present:

Board Members: Jeff Kelley, Suzanne Myers, Mary Robinson, Kim Walker

Foundation Liaison : Jay Skiles

Absent :

Board Member: Kirstee Moore-Schutte

City Council Liaison: Tamera Frye

Kelley called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm

Attention was called to the posting of The Open Meetings Act - NEB.REV.STAT. CHAPTER 84, ARTICLE 14.

As required by State Law, public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room. Agenda items may be moved up or down on the agenda at the discretion of the Board President. As required by State Law, additions may not be made to this agenda less than 24 hours before the beginning of the meeting unless they are considered under this section of the agenda and the Library Board determines that the matter requires emergency action.

Board members reviewed the August 19, 2025 board meeting minutes. Kelley asked for a motion to approve. Robinson moved to approve the minutes and Walker seconded it. The vote was called. "Ayes": Kelley, Myers, Robinson, Walker. "Nays": none. Abstaining: none. Absent: Moore-Schutte. The vote passed.

The statistical and financial reports for August were reviewed. Kelley called for a motion to approve. Myers moved and Kelley seconded the motion. "Ayes": Kelley, Myers, Robinson, Walker. "Nays": none. Abstaining: none. Absent: Moore-Schutte. The vote passed.

Board members reviewed the August bills. Kelley called for a motion to approve. Walker and Robinson seconded to approve the bills. The vote was called. "Ayes": Kelley,

Myers, Robinson, Walker. “Nays”: none. Abstaining: none. Absent: Moore-Schutte.
The vote passed.

Director Clarke’s Report

All programs are back in full swing for the fall.

1. New programs of note are:

- Tai Chi for Arthritis & Fall Prevention provided by Ashely Fenning from Nebraska Extension Food, Nutrition & Health. This program is so popular we had to add a second session to accommodate all of the registrants. One session is held at the library and the other is held at our local Yoga Collective around the corner from the library. These classes will continue through December 17th. The cost is a one-time \$20 per registrant and goes directly to Ashley.
- Beginner Computer Skills provided by Mackenzie Broderick, Director of AIM Trio Educational Opportunity Center from the AIM Institute.
- Builder’s Club which was formerly Lego Club. This reimagined youth activity will expand on STEM concepts to include activities beyond using just Legos. Hayley and Jeff have already utilized the Nebraska Extension office to provide their first Builder’s Club activity of the school year.
- Pints & Plot Twists is a new book discussion group focusing on true crime and held at our local Scott Free Brewery. It is so popular that we had to create two groups. Sherry and Denise will each lead one group.

2. Continuing Programs:

- Saturday Storytime will not only continue but Hayley will have it every Saturday now instead of just once per month.
- Sherry will continue ALL and Food for Thought.
- Denise will continue STEAM and Heritage Book Club.
- Mah Jongg will continue to meet every Thursday at the library.
- Jeff and Hayley will continue Teen Dungeons & Dragons
- Partnership with the Yoga Collective and the Inner Journey Book Club will continue the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings each month.

3. The library was granted \$2,450 from Keno funds to purchase a demonstration table. The table has been ordered and will be shipped the week of September 22nd. It will be first used at the Sushi & Sake event to be held on October 20th at the Emporium Bean & Bottle. The table will eventually be available for use by other entities outside of the library. Several have expressed interest in using the demonstration table.

4. During the month of August, we received a Lender’s Compensation check from the Nebraska Library Commission for \$87.82, and a travel reimbursement check from the Western Library System for \$107.10 for when staff went to Oshkosh

Western Library Conference. Cash receipts for the library in August were \$561.41.

5. Christie, Sherry, and Hayley will attend the Association for Rural and Small Libraries conference in Albuquerque, NM September 17-20th. Christie applied for and was approved for a Continuing Education and Training Grant from the Nebraska Library Commission in the amount of \$500 to attend this conference.
6. Christie will be absent at the October Library Board meeting. Sherry Preston will substitute.
7. At the August 25th Gering city council meeting the council considered and approved a recommendation that the Library Foundation begin a capital fundraising campaign to fund an ADA access and library building expansion project. This project will include a ramp, elevator and community room. If not enough funds for the total project are collected the foundation has been encouraged to do ramp and at least put an elevator shaft and later when money is available do the rest of the project. The renderings have been ordered.
8. The final passage of the city budget will be at the September, 22, 2025 city council meeting.
9. The city would love to support the library expansion funding but at this time are not able to. The sales tax will be up for re-approval in the future. If that is not passed it could mean reduction in services. The school may have a proposal at the same time.

Gering City Council Liaison: Tamera Frye

1. None

The Gering Library Foundation Board Liaison Report: Jay Skiles

1. As the City Council gave us leave to begin the campaign to make capital improvements to the Gering Library, the Foundation conducted a short business meeting and then broke into or focused groups for deeper discussion of strategy and first steps.
2. The three groups are Marketing and Social Media Campaign, Grants Committee, and Capital Campaign. We will share additional information as available.
3. Please note, we welcome the members of the Library Board to join our efforts if they desire but we need to ensure we do not inadvertently violate the Open Meeting Act by having 3 or more Library Board members serving on any one group. Please let me or Suzanne know where you might be interested in serving so we can work out assignments as needed.

4. There are two mini fundraisers now
 - a. Diane Downer has bookmarks with suggested free will of \$5
 - b. Peggy Fegler and Sharon Armstrong made a quilt that be auctioned with raffle tickets. The quilt will travel to several events including:
 - i. Sushi & Saki
 - ii. Pints and Plots
 - iii. Friends Annual Meeting September 12, 2025

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Christmas will be on a Thursday and it was suggested that we close the library on Friday December 26, 2025. Kelley asked for a motion to have the library closed that day. Myers so moved and the motion was seconded by Robinson. The vote was called. "Ayes": Kelley, Myers, Robinson, Walker. "Nays": none. Abstaining: none. Absent: Moore-Schutte. The vote passed.

Closed Session: none

Open Comment: none

Kelley called for a motion to adjourn. Walker moved and Robinson seconded. "Ayes": Kelley, Myers, Robinson, Walker. "Nays": none. Abstaining: none. Absent: Moore-Schutte. The vote passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:25

Suzanne Myers
Secretary