

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2025 GERING PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Present:

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

Adult Engagement Librarian: Sherry Preston

City Council Liaison: Tamera Frye

Absent:

Board Member: Kirstee Moore-Schutte

Foundation Liaison: Jay Skiles

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 September 16, 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": Kirstee Moore-Schutte. The vote passed.

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

Board members reviewed the September bills. Kelley called for a motion to approve. Walker moved and Myers 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

1. - Director Clarke and librarians Preston and Grams attended the ARSL conference in Albuquerque on September 17-19. This was the first time attending for all three and was considered quite beneficial as it centered on small, rural libraries and their unique needs. In particular, Director Clarke attended two very relevant and worthwhile sessions, First Steps to Fundraising: How Every Library Can Build Support and Navigating New Building Projects with information she will be sharing with the Library Foundation as they begin their capital campaign for the library ADA access and expansion project. Grams was excited to connect with librarians across the country to gain a variety of perspectives on challenges facing libraries today along with countless insights, ideas, and resources for youth programming. Preston stated, "Professional conferences always leave me energized and full of new ideas. We got to see a library celebrity, chat with Congressional librarians and folks from 40 different states."
2. -The Friends held their annual meeting on October 12 and had 44 attendees. The Humanities Nebraska program was on the North Platte canteen. They sold tons of raffle tickets for the quilt fundraiser!
3. -The demonstration table purchased with Keno funds has arrived and was first used at the Sushi & Sake program at the Emporium Bean & Bottle on October 20. Tickets were \$45. The plan is to eventually have the table available for use by other local entities. We will be working on a policy to facilitate this.
4. -The youth and adult services teams have once again come up with an incredibly creative and fun escape room for our community. The Halloween Escape Room will be available on Thursday, October 30 from 4-8 pm and Saturday, November 1 from 12-4 pm. There are limited spaces for these events so you must call the library and register to participate.
5. -The library will be participating in the downtown trick-or-treat sponsored by the Gering Merchants Association on October 31.
6. -During the month of September, the Friends donated \$200 as sponsorship of the 2025 Teen summer reading program and library cash receipts were \$348.35.

Gering City Council Liaison: Tamera Frye

1. Frye reminded that council had agreed to go ahead with allowing Foundation to fund raise funds for ADA improvements and library expansion.

The Gering Library Foundation Board Liaison Report: Jay Skiles

Myers reported for Skiles

1. Foundation has set up four committees to work on proposal for ADA and library expansion, Grants, Capital Campaign, Marketing and Personal Touch (Catch All)

2. As soon as renderings are available there will be additional information.
3. The Quilt made by Peggy Fegler and Sharon Armstrong is traveling to events and tickets are being sold for \$1.00
4. The GPLFoundation web site has a link to Oregon Trail Community Foundation for donations through Zeffy which does not take fees like other services.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Closed Session: none

Open Comment: none

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

Meeting was adjourned at 4:17

Suzanne Myers
Secretary