

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 20, 2026 GERING PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Present:

Board Members: Jeff Kelley, Kirstee Moore-Schutte, Suzanne Myers, Mary Robinson, Kim Walker

Library Director: Christie Clarke

Foundation Liaison: Jay Skiles

Absent: City Council Liaison: Tamera Frye

Kelley called the meeting to order at 4:03 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 December 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, Moore-Schutte, Myers, Robinson, Walker. "Nays": none. "Abstaining": none. "Absent": none. The vote passed.

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

Board members reviewed the December bills. Kelley called for a motion to approve. Robinson moved and Walker seconded to approve the bills. The vote was called. "Ayes": Kelley, Moore-Schutte, Myers, Robinson, Walker. "Nays": none. "Abstaining": none. "Absent": none. The vote passed.

Director Clarke's Report

-Programming Informati

- Sign-ups for the new Tai Chi for Energy are open. There will still be two classes held- one at the Yoga Collective 11-noon and one at the library 1-2 on Wednesdays. There is a one-time \$30 fee per person. Call the library to sign up. Classes run from February 18- June 1. There are only 15 slots open for each session.
- Crafternoon in February is on Valentine's Day so how appropriate that attendees will have all sorts of fun materials to craft their own Valentines complete with a wax seal. This drop-in event is from 12-3 pm.

-Tech News

- After much perseverance, Jeff Fiet, in working with Useful techs, Intralinks, and Apollo techs, finally has Useful up and running. We are meeting later this week on finalizing staff training. We hope to train staff the last week in January and have patrons using the new system before the beginning of February.

-Safety Update

- At January's staff meeting, Tammie Gitschel gave an overview of the new walkie talkies. She and the rest of the library safety committee will meet soon to formalize staff training on these devices as it pertains to the Standard Response Protocol.
- Thanks to Jeff Fiet and Tammie Gitschel the new smoke detectors have been installed in several areas of the library building and the phone app is installed and working on Dir. Clarke's and Jeff's phones. This will be the first time the building has smoke detectors.

-Other Info

- During the month of December, the library cash receipts were \$522.25. The library received a check for \$30 from patron L. Boyer to pay for a damaged Inner Library Loan (ILL). This amount reimburses GPL for paying Kilgore Memorial Library, the lending library, for the ILL. Lender's compensation received from the Nebraska Library Commission for Jul-Sept 2025 was \$104.50. We also received reimbursement for internet switches from NLC grant funds in the amount of \$898.46.
- Librarians that went to Alliance for the WLS Summer Reading Workshop heard a presenter that spoke about talking books and the devices. Staff is providing information to patrons about getting a device and talking books.

- The annual survey taken from the monthly reports was housed by Baker and Taylor which is no longer active and the Nebraska Library commission is almost finished creating a replacement.

Comments included questions about how we let people know about the talking books and devices.

Gering City Council Liaison report: none

The Gering Library Foundation Board Liaison Report: Jay Skiles

1. Foundation had the annual public meeting
2. As the year progresses there are plans for a kick-off event.
3. Officers were elected:
 - a. President Suzanne Myers
 - b. Vice President Charles Lieske
 - c. Secretary Agnes Robinson
 - d. Treasurer Tom Swan
4. David Nash, recently resigned and was recognized for his service to the Foundation Board.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Closed Session: none

Open Comment: none

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

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30

Suzanne Myers
Secretary