

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2026, GERING PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Present:

Board Members: Jeff Kelley, Kirstee Moore-Schutte, Suzanne Myers,

Library Director: Christie Clarke

Foundation Liaison: Jay Skiles

City Council Liaison: Tamera Frye

Absent:

Board members: Mary Robinson, Kim Walker

Kelley called the meeting to order at 4:06 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 January 20, 2026, board meeting minutes. Kelley asked for a motion to approve. Moore-Schutte moved to approve the minutes and Kelley seconded it. The vote was called. "Ayes": Kelley, Moore-Schutte, Myers. "Nays": none. "Abstaining": none. "Absent": Robinson, Walker. The vote passed.

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

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

Director's Report:

-Programming Information

- In March GPL will host Keep Scottsbluff and Gering Beautiful to talk about their organization and what they do for the community.
- On Saturday, April 11 GPL will have a craft supply swap from 12-3.
- Meadowlark Hearth will conduct a program on March 12 to answer gardening questions.
- Sherry Preston has written a grant once again to host the Creative Aging Arts program. It is on the calendar to begin in March, but we have not yet heard about receiving the grant.
- Hayley Grams will again visit Lincoln Elem on Feb 20 to do the ever-popular Stuffie Sleepover program.
- The Gering Schools Preschool Advisory Board which is comprised of educators and parents do an annual community project with the students. This year they have chosen the Gering Library/Foundation as their entity. The preschoolers and their parents will come to the library in March and create canvas paintings to be displayed during National Library Week (April 19-25). The pieces will be up for auction during the Friends Book Sale. All proceeds will go to the Gering Public Library Foundation.
- SMILE (See me in the Library Event) begins on March 13 with a visit from Lincoln Elem with the other two schools to visit in April.

-Tech News

- Useful is now up and running on all public computers.

-Safety Update

- Staff will receive training on the walkie talkies from Gering Police Chief Holthus at this month's staff meeting.

-Other Info

- The library will be getting a mini-Willa Cather sculpture just like the one in the US Capitol. The sculpture will be unveiled, along with some other art pieces, during a celebration on July 3 in the Gering Civic Plaza. The 4 ft tall Willa sculpture will live on the library lawn and be graciously insured for the first three years by the Gering Public Library Foundation.
- Put March 21 on your calendar to attend the Nebraska West Fest, a beer, wine & spirits festival. Over twenty-five vendors will be in attendance and the Gering Public Library Foundation has been chosen as the nonprofit to benefit from the proceeds of this event. It will be held at 3109 Ave B Scottsbluff from 11 am to 4 pm. Gering Library Foundation and Friends will also volunteer at this event and host an informational booth with pretzel necklaces for a minimum donation.
- During the month of January, the library cash receipts were \$674.40.
- Mary Robinson has sent a letter of resignation for her position on the Gering Library Board due to other commitments.

Gering City Council Liaison report:

Willa Cather Sculpture was discussed at the last meeting.

The Gering Library Foundation Board Liaison Report: Jay Skiles

1. Marketing Campaign committee will be meeting on Tuesday at 5:00.
2. Nebraska West Fest on March 21 will need volunteers and Foundation will have a table.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Closed Session: None

Open Comment: None

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

Meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Suzanne Myers
Secretary