

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 17, 2026 GERING PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Present:

Board Members: Theresa Ewing, Jeff Kelley, Suzanne Myers, Kim Walker

Library Director: Christie Clarke

Absent:

Board Member: Kirstee Moore-Schutte

Foundation Liaison: Jay Skiles

City Council Liaison: vacant position

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 February 17, 2026 board meeting minutes. Kelley asked for a motion to approve. Myers moved to approve the minutes and Ewing seconded it. The vote was called. "Ayes": Ewing, Kelley, Myers, Walker. "Nays": none. "Abstaining": none. "Absent": Moore-Schutte. The vote passed.

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

Board members reviewed the February bills. Kelley called for a motion to approve. We discussed the bill about the new library cards and wax stamps. Walker moved and Myers seconded to approve the bills. The vote was called. "Ayes": Ewing, Kelley, Myers, Walker. "Nays": none. "Abstaining": none. "Absent": Moore-Schutte. The vote passed.

Director's Report:

-Please welcome our newest board member, Theresa Ewing. She will finish Mary Robinson's term which expires in 2028.

-I would like to present Mary Robinson with a certificate of recognition for her years of service on the library board. I have reached out to her family to find out a good time to visit.

-Nebraska West Fest

The Gering Public Library Foundation has been chosen as the recipient of all extra proceeds for the first annual Nebraska West Fest. This event is spearheaded by Gering's Scott Free Brewery and is intended to be an annual event to support local 501(c)(3) organizations. It will be held on March 21 from 11-4. Described as "the Panhandle's signature celebration of craft beverage culture—bringing together breweries, cideries, distilleries, and local makers for one unforgettable afternoon. Hosted inside the beautiful greenhouse at PapaMoon HQ, you'll enjoy a warm, inviting space to sip, sample, shop, and explore." Tasting tickets provide unlimited samples. Visit Nebraska West Fest on Facebook or nebraskawestfest.com for more information. If you are not already volunteering as a part of the Foundation, please consider attending this event to support the Gering Library Foundation in their pursuit of the library ADA building renovation and expansion project. We are so thankful to Scott Free and NE West Fest for choosing the Foundation as their beneficiary.

-New Logos have been developed for the Foundation, Friends, and the Library.

-Programming Information

- Keep Scottsbluff and Gering Beautiful will hold a Zero Waste Living program on Apr 13 at the library. The presenter will show how you can use less of household items.
- On Saturday, April 11 GPL will have a craft supply swap from 12-3 plus a craft for Crafternoon.
- Meadowlark Hearth will conduct a program on Apr 16 at 5:30 pm to answer gardening questions.
- Sherry Preston has received the Creative Aging Arts grant from the NE Arts Council and the class has begun. The class is on printmaking and the Linocut technique.
- On Sunday, Apr 12 at 3 pm, there will be an Open Mic Poetry program at the library.
- Master Gardener, Kirstee Moore-Schutte, will hold a class all about tomatoes on Apr 20 at 5:30 pm.
- SMILE continues in April with visits from Northfield Elem and Geil Elem.

- Pints & Plot Twists will wrap up their book groups with a final joint meeting at the Civic Center on Apr 7 at 6:30 pm. Chadron-based author Poe Ballantine, writer of *Love & Terror on the Howling Plains of Nowhere*, will lead the discussion and answer questions. This is open to the public.

-Tech News

- Jeff Fiet is working with our website host, Libchalk, to get an online reservation program running for our community room.

-Other Info

- Sculptor Littleton Alston will install the Willa Cather sculpture on May 19 on the library grounds. On July 3, the Willa Cather sculpture will be gifted in a ceremony to the City of Gering in the Gering Civic Plaza at 6 pm. The ceremony will include a one-block walk to the northwest corner of the library for the unveiling of the sculpture.
- The library annual survey is almost complete and will be submitted by the April 1 deadline.
- During the month of February, the library cash receipts were \$341.75 and we received lender's compensation from the NE Library Commission for \$71.30.

- Gering City Council Liaison report: No report

-Gering Public Library Foundation Board Liaison Report:

- Myers shared that after the Nebraska West Fest the Foundation will be working on naming amounts for various parts of the improvement as well as finding persons to help with the campaign.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

1. Election of Vice President
 - a. Myers nominated Kim Walker and was seconded by Kelley. After no discussion Kelley called for a vote. Ayes": Ewing, Kelley, Myers, Walker. "Nays": none. "Abstaining": none. "Absent": Moore-Schutte. The vote passed.
2. The updated Public Services Policy was considered. Myers moved to accept and Walker seconded. Kelley called for a vote. Ayes": Ewing, Kelley, Myers, Walker. "Nays": none. "Abstaining": none. "Absent": Moore-Schutte. The vote passed.

3. The Library of Things Policy was considered. After discussion about the policy Director Clarke said the city attorney questioned about having a required deposit for certain items. Clarke explained as a library we are about access. Discussion from the board led to agreement to not have a deposit. Kelley moved to accept and Myers seconded. Ayes": Ewing, Kelley, Myers, Walker. "Nays": none. "Abstaining": none. "Absent": Moore-Schutte. The vote passed. Clarke said there will be a page on our web-site about the Library of Things.

Closed Session: none

Open Comment: none

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

Meeting was adjourned at 4:52

Suzanne Myers
Secretary