

The Solon Public Library Board

Meeting Minutes February 23, 2026

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Solon Public Library Board was called to order by Sandy Lawrence at 6:30 PM

Present

Sandy Lawrence, Liz King, Steve Fisher, Matthew Hanes, Janet Salathiel

Absent

Bill Christian, Char Cosgrove, Matt Macke (City Liaison)

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved. (Steve/Matthew)

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the January 26, 2026 meeting were unanimously approved. (Matthew/Steve)

Citizen's speak and correspondence

- Citizen's speak: none
- Correspondence: none

Committee Reports

- **Building:** covered under old business
- **Finance:** update on CD at Green State maturing on 03/16/2026. Under the Board's direction, the CD was to be renewed for 22 months at 3.9% interest or the closest interest rate to that term. (Steve/Matthew)
- **Johnson County Liaison:** No report
- **City liaison:** Matt Macke absent
- **Board of Trustees Continuing Education:** Steve reported on Boardroom Series Top 5 Self Evaluation of Top Library Board Core Function
- **25th Anniversary Celebration Committee:** the previous 2 meeting were very productive with their planning. Minutes from this committee were included in the board packet.

Library Director's Report: Liz reported on upcoming programs, the staff are working on Summer Reading Plans, and we are host to the Dr. Lulu Merle Johnson display for the month of March. She reminded everyone how important library advocacy is again this year. Omnibus HB 720 before the state legislature would negatively impact public libraries.

Approval of bills:

The bills for January 2026 were approved unanimously (Matthew/Janet)

Review of foundation Report: there is no report at this time

Old Business:

- **Open board Position:**
City Position; the mayor is checking into people to fill this position

The Solon Public Library Board

- **FY27 Budget Update:**

Liz is waiting on the final FY27 Library budget amounts from the City Administrator.

She will email the final Johnson County Library Funding Formula to the Johnson County Grants Manager as soon as she receives the approved Library Budget amount from the City Administrator.

The City of Solon will hold a Special Budget Levy Meeting on April 1, 2026 at 5 pm.

- **Assistant Library Director position:**

City Administrator denied the budgetary request for the full-time Assistant Library Director position for FY27. It should be resubmitted for FY28.

- **Washer/Dryer Project:**

The contractor was here to drill holes in the concrete so that the electrician and plumber can begin installation

New Business:

- **Interview Committee for Library Director:**

- The Interview Committee consists of Board of Trustees members Sandy Lawrence and Char Cosgrove, Friends of the Library Board President Susan Scott, Library Staff Member Megan Richardson, the City Council Liaison Matt Macke, and City Council Personnel Committee member Greg Morris.
- The Board authorized the Interview Committee to complete the process of conducting interviews and to present a final candidate to the Board for approval. There are 7 applicants.
- The Committee will schedule Special Board Meetings following Iowa Open Meetings Law as needed to complete the interview process and present a final candidate.

- **Policy Review/Approval:** Therapy Dog Policy. Final policy was reviewed by the City Attorney and presented to the board for review and approval. (Matthew/Janet)

- **Advocacy for Public Libraries in Iowa:**

ILA GAC (Governmental Affairs Committee) Advocacy email is a good resource for information, as is the Cedar Rapids Public Library Advocacy Webpage and newsletter.

- **Volunteers for the March 14 Fun for All Night:** Volunteers are needed to help with the event. The movie is Mine Crafters.

- **Board Continuing Education Suggestion:** Items were listed for Board consideration.

Adjournment: 7:12PM. (Matthew/Steve)

Next Meeting: Regular meeting Monday, March 30, 2026 at 6:30PM

Submitted by: Janet Salathiel