

# **The Solon Public Library Board**

## **Meeting Minutes September 29, 2025**

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Present**

Sandy Lawrence, Liz King (Library Director), Cole Gabriel (City Liaison), Matthew Hanes, Jen Fetzer, Janet Salathiel, Char Cosgrove, Steve Fisher

### **Absent**

Bill Christensen

### **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was unanimously approved as amended. (Change in New Business, Candidate Meet & Greet item added) (Matthew/Steve)

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the August 18, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved with no corrections. (Steve/Jen)

### **Citizen's Speak and Correspondence**

Citizen Speak: No report

Correspondence: No report

### **Committee Reports**

- **Building:** Liz reported on the dividing wall estimates that were submitted by Kwik Wall and SGH Concepts. With consultation from Public Works Superintendent Kris Richardson there was more confidence in the SGH proposal. The cost proposed for the new wall and installation is \$20,987. Liz discussed with the board how to finance this proposal. There is a cash account that is a Trust & Agency Account. Within this account is the money that the Library Foundation Board and the Solon Women's Club have raised for the wall. Also, there is money granted by the Beef Days Committee in this account. This total amount from these three contributors is \$18,336. The remaining balance will be drawn from previous donations held in the Library Trust & Agency cash account.

After discussion the board unanimously voted to accept the SGH proposal. (Steve/Janet)

- **Finance:** Jen distributed a print out of the current rates for CDs from Hills Bank, Green State Credit Union, Bridge Bank & Solon State Bank. This was to give us a suggestion of what we will be working with when our next CD matures in November.

- **Johnson County Liaison:** No report

- **City of Solon Liaison:** Cole shared that he is working with Council Member Lauren Whitehead who is on the City Personnel Committee to hopefully make progress on pro-rated benefits for regular part-time city employees prior to the start of FY27 budget season. Liz has made a request to the city personnel committee each year for the past 3 years during the Library budget presentation to request pro-rated benefits for part-time city employees.

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- **Board of Trustees Continuing Education:** Char reported on Library Law: Open Meetings & Open Records and found it helpful. Sandy reported on attending an event hosted by League of Women Voters of Johnson County and ALA President Sam Helmick called Libraries as Democracy Builders: Funding, Freedom and Civic Engagement. There was a strong emphasis on the belief that libraries are for everyone.

## Library Director's Report

Liz highlighted the Documentary: The Librarians. The film is being shown at the Bijou Theater in Mount Vernon on 10/7. There will be a Q&A session hosted by four local librarians. Liz also reported on The American Library Project. Two young journalists came to the library as part of their investigation on the changing role of public libraries across America. Liz and staff enjoyed meeting and speaking with them.

## Approval of Bills

The bills for September 2025 were unanimously approved. (Char/Janet)

## Review of Foundation Report

The August and September 2025 Foundation financial reports were reviewed.

## Old Business

- **ALA LTC Accessibility Grant update:** The project being funded by the grant is completed. Once Public Works repairs an area of dry wall the project will be finished.

## New Business

- **Candidate Meet & Greet:** After discussion the Library Board had no concerns for this event as planned.
- **Dividing Wall Estimates:** This was discussed and voted upon under Committee Reports
- **2023 Strategic Plan Review:** A review of the Strategic Plan was submitted to refamiliarise the board with its use and contents.
- **Joint Library Boards Social Meeting:** An informal get-together of the joint Library Boards is planned for Oct 28th at 6:30. The Foundation Board will be hosting.
- **Board of Trustees Continuing Education:** Items were listed for Board Consideration.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m. (Jen/Matthew)

## Next Meeting

Regular Meeting: Monday, October 27, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

## Submitted by

Char Cosgrove