

Holdrege Area Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting August 5, 2025

The regularly scheduled board meeting of the Holdrege Area Public Library was called to order at 4:03 in the community meeting room in compliance with the Nebraska Public/Open Meetings Act, posted on the north wall of the room. Present were board members Cassie Ehrenberg, Bill Yochum, Lori Larson, Julie Johnson, Annette Sindt, Maureen Epping, Cindy Woollen, Sue Christensen, and Library Director Sierra Burrows. Board members Rosanna Meyer and Anna Sertich arrived late, but were present before the consent agenda was considered.

Consent Agenda: The minutes from the July 1, 2025 meeting, the financial report, and the accounts payable report were reviewed. A motion made by Lori Larson to approve the consent agenda was seconded by Bill Yochum. The motion passed with affirmative votes from Cassie Ehrenberg, Bill Yochum, Lori Larson, Julie Johnson, Annette Sindt, Maureen Epping, Cindy Woollen, Sue Christensen, Rosanna Meyer and Anna Sertich.

Public Forum: There were no members of the public present.

New Business: An update from the Library Planning Committee was shared by Lori Larson. Face-to-face meetings with two fundraising and capital campaign support companies have been scheduled: Thursday, August 7th at 3:00 pm with Strawhecker Nonprofit Services and Monday, August 11th at 5:00 with Kinetic Fundraising. Also, the next meeting with CMBA Architects Firm will be Tuesday, August 12th at 4:00. All meetings will be in the library board meeting room. Cassie Ehrenberg reported that City Administrator Chris Rector had provided no further information about the removal of the house from the property north of the library.

In other new business, President Cassie Ehrenberg cautioned board members to be mindful of cyber security, especially as the board is contracting with other businesses. Board members should not accept invoices via emails. All invoices should be directed to the library director and/or administrator, not to board members.

Old Business: There has been some improvement with the problem of the smell in the former office areas of the library following the work that has been completed to re-roof the building and the addition of a new dehumidifier.

In other old business Sierra Burrows reminded the board that the policy revision to clarify Section 1.3.18.6 regarding reimbursement for gas and/or mileage for vehicle rentals was presented at the April meeting, but was not voted on for acceptance yet. A motion was made by Anna Sertich and seconded by Rosanna Meyer to approve the revision. The motion passed with affirmative votes from all members: Cassie Ehrenberg, Bill Yochum, Lori Larson, Julie Johnson, Annette Sindt, Maureen Epping, Cindy Woollen, Sue Christensen, Rosanna Meyer and Anna Sertich.

Director's Report: Director Burrows reported that the digitization of the library's microfilm has begun.

She reported on the hiring and training of three new staff members: Jessica Kraus, Verdena Montey, and Alyssa Frerichs. Also, that the staff in-service day was very productive.

Sierra has recently implemented a new, more efficient procedure to track material orders and monitor the materials budget, and a new system for the staff to report technology and building maintenance issues.

Director Sierra Burrows has been nominated to serve on the Central Plains Library Systems Board, and also received the Louise A. Nixon Scholarship.

Building updates included progress on the new firewall and restoration of the public Wi-Fi access, roof replacement is underway, the city has been contacted to deal with leaking condensation lines and Durable Service has been contacted to deal with both HVCA units, both with failed/failing motors. It is hoped that these repairs and the addition of another dehumidifier will provide the final resolution of the problem with the smell that has been an issue for so long.

Sierra is working on the library's proposal for this year's Give to Grow Campaign, but because the Foundation is using a different company there are some extra hoops to jump through to show that though the library is not a 501-C3, it is a government agency, and is eligible to participate in the Give to Grow fundraiser campaign.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 following a motion by Bill Yochum that was seconded by Julie Johnson. The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be Tuesday, September 2nd at 4:00 pm in the library board meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Christensen, secretary