

Cole Library Board of Trustees

Meeting: October 17, 2025

9:00am

Room 310

Present: Grace Chamberlain, Diana Corcoran, Julia Andrews, Jackie Wallace, Sarah Doyle, Jen Rouse, and Tom Weiseler

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:01 by Julia.

II. Approval of Agenda

Jackie motioned and Diana 2nd to approve

III. Approval of Minutes

Diana motioned and Julia 2nd to approve

IV. Public Comment & Communication

- Grace will work on keeping the website current with current members and positions and communicate with Lori at City Council to do so.
- Grace will keep the City Council and website notified of any changes to the mission or days met, etc.
- Boards and commissions need all board members to be up to date on policy as of July. Newest member Sarah Doyle was approved in May. Grace will be getting a certificate from the State Library online to certify.
- A City Council Member could be assigned to attend Library Board Meeting as a liaison after the mayoral election.
- Jackie received a call regarding the Dolly Parton Program. Carol Daly is looking for several Mount Vernon community members to be involved in the Friends of the Library program, not for financial assistance but participation.
 - Grace will notify Cathy to make an announcement at Children's Story Time and can potentially have the poster on the bulletin board to advertise.
- Need to clarify language in the Cornell Report and the *Mount Vernon Lisbon Sun* newspaper that Cornell College "houses" the public library and not "operates" the library, which is misleading regarding the relationship of the public library with the college. Grace and Jen will work together to get that clarified.

V. Reports/ongoing business

A. President

- No presidential report

B. Public Library Director

1. Upcoming programs

- Fall Book Talk on Thursday, October 16 funded by Hills Bank was very successful - 68 attendees - one of our best attended.
- October 23rd at LBC - Grace will be speaking on "Cornell College: A History of Service"
- No additional programming planned for November and December other than the Annual Winter Adult Reading Program as the fall programs have been extensive and exhaustive for our public library staff.
- Looking to reach out to current area daycare providers to provide information regarding the Book Buddies Program. Grace will reach out to those names provided.

2. Annual Report to the State

- To be submitted in two weeks and signed by Julia

3. Financial report

- Increase in expenditures for salaries and benefits because of Tracy being hired. Prior to her being hired, summer workers were paid for their 9-11 AM shift for a total of \$1,552.50, which shows up now in a lump sum even though paid in September.
- Open record laws in Iowa so that any citizen can request open records for any city employees, including Grace and Cathy. However, because of the unique position with Cornell, Grace receives some Cornell-specific correspondence that perhaps should not be public. Grace reached out to the state and found that only her public library correspondence is open to the public.
 - Will pursue possibility of public library email that is separate from Cornell, perhaps when Cathy retires as part of the 5-year library plan.

C. College Librarian's Report

- October 23rd will be a meeting about cuts made on the 28th within Cornell staff.
- Later meetings will be held for faculty cuts.

VI. Major Business

A. Linn County Supervisors advocacy event

- Linn County Librarians - Thursday, Oct. 30 11-2 at Marion Public Library - hosting an event for Linn County librarians and politicians to advocate for libraries. Board members are invited to come as constituents. Grace will be creating and bringing promotional swag.

B. Bylaws review

- Grace has made revisions highlighted in yellow what the board can review and change.
- Board Powers and Duties could be listed out for transparency for all.
- Board can approve Bylaws changes after one meeting of separation which .
- Diana moves to vote on Bylaws at our next Board meeting and Julia 2nds.

C. Community Impact Survey

- Availability of non-English language books within children's library collection specifically

- Grace will send community survey suggestions for the Board to review prior to the next meeting.
- Community Survey should be completed by January and so will be a main focus for the next meeting.

Jackie motions to adjourn and Sarah 2nds at 10:11.