Gibson Memorial Library Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 14, 2026

I. **Call to Order: 5:14 PM**

II. **Roll Call:**

**Present:**

GML Board Members:

Ann Coulter, Steve Guthrie, Steve Lane, Angel Sorden, Jessica Rosener, Sue Rusk, Becca Slick, and Melissa Levine

Library Director: Danielle Dickinson Thaden

Assistant Library Director: Jordan Foote

City Council Liaison: Jocelyn Blazek

Creston News Advertiser: Erin Henze

**Absent:** Connie Maxson

**Adoption of Agenda:** Motion: Guthrie; second: Sorden; motion carried.

III. **Public Forum:** No Public Comment

IV. **Approval of Minutes August 3, 2026**: Motion to accept August minutes: Lane; second: Sorden, motion carried.

V. **Finance Report**

a) Bills: Mainstay for the server and switches and the first quarterly service payment, which will qualify for the 70% reimbursement through E-Rate. Conference registrations, postage and books. Decoy owl purchased for the pavilion to help with the roosting pigeons. The restricted account was used to order more prizes for teens earning prizes from the programs, and the last payment on new chairs made. Motion to pay the bills: Guthrie, second: Lane, motion carried.

b) Finances: Copies were up in August, Union County funding and Direct State Aid expected in September. Several memorial donations were made in August, including a sizable donation from Colleen Hartman.

i. Rosener asked questions on review of the budget documents. Thaden will send educational videos to follow up on this question.

**VI. Director's / Circulation Report:**

a) Juvenile collections and young adult numbers continue to be increasing. Most growth is due to increases in the Manga collection and reorganization of non-fiction in the juvenile section.

b) Other categories in circulation were at their normal level or slightly down, which includes the door count that was slightly down. Overdrive / Libby checkouts also slightly down, with restriction of access to county residents being updated recently. ILL numbers were good this month.

c) Programming had another strong month of outreach with staff getting out into the community during back-to-school time.

d) The Legacy Committee met four times since the August meeting, working on closing out the Dekko Grant and taking stock of donor tree in entry way. Donor tree has not been updated since 2016. Generating ideas on how to recognize donors going forward.
e) Dolly Parton passed away, spurring more interest with 20 more participants registering since her death for the Imagination Library and $925 being donated through the Dolly Parton portal since her passing. Annual activity to celebrate Dolly Day 9/25 is being organized.
f) New concrete poured by the city on Elm Street.

**VII. Unfinished Business**

a) Photo opt-out form: When the library holds larger events, they will post very clearly that they are having someone take pictures, and patrons can opt-out if they don't want to have their photo shared. Signage will also say that if patrons have filled out a form previously, they are requested to fill out another form. Motion to approve Photo-opt out form: Slick, second: Lane motion carried
b) Fire alarm communicator options: Johnson Controls vs. Feld Fire. We did not receive a full quote back from Johnson Controls and after reviewing information with Mandy from the City, the Feld Fire quote is very reasonable. Motion made to upgrade the Feld Fire Contract to include Cellular: Guthrie, second: Slick, motion carried.
c) Telehealth tablet opportunity and clarification: Thaden will check with Marion County on any type of Policy that is being used by communities involved in this grant. Motion made to table until next meeting: Sorden, second: Rosener, motion carried.
d) 2026 SCIF Grant: Window design possibilities BFS images. Motion to approve: Lane second: Guthrie, motion carried

VIII. New Business

a) Board Education:
   i. Data from Gerry Rowland: Gerry complied annual report data for the State Library of Iowa and put together this report to help Libraries advocate for themselves. The trustees reviewed the data included in the report and made observations and asked questions about the data. Taking note of great outreach and programming numbers but still brainstorming ways to get patrons in the doors checking out books.
   ii. City Scape Article: Property Tax Reform: What do we do now? Board members split into smaller groups to review the article and share the ideas that came from the article for awareness. Discussing limited resources and doing more for our community with those resources.
b) Proposed closures for 2027: Motion to approve, Guthrie, Rosener second, motion carried.

c) Circulation Policy Review: proposed overdue notice changes: Motion to approve: Guthrie Second: Rusk, motion carried.
d) Review bylaws Motion to approve with amendments: Levine; Second: Guthrie motion carried
e) Director evaluation: Document reviewed and thoughts shared by Trustees about the works of Thaden and her team.

IX. Adjournment: 6:38 PM: Next Meeting: Monday, October 5, 2026, at 5:15 PM.