

Morris Area Public Library
February 09, 2026
Board of Trustees General Meeting Minutes
6:30 pm
Morris Area Public Library Conference Room

Minutes-

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call**
 - a. Called to order at 6:31 P.M.
 - b. Roll Call: Cummings, Ebert, Keavney, and Russell were all present. Keegan arrived at 6:47 P.M.
 - c. Library Interim Director Barowsky was present, along with guests Berndt, Burton, Eallonardo, Fischer, Meyer, Murray, Sandoval and Sargent
- 2. Review of Agenda for Additions/ Changes:**
 - a. none
- 3. Construction Update -**
 - a. Eallonardo
 - i. Phase 2 will start February 10, 2026 the library will be closed February 10th and 11th some staff will be working
 - ii. Temporary walls will be in place by Thursday at opening
 - iii. Phase 2A should roughly take six weeks to complete
 - iv. Patrons that need to use the elevator have to be escorted by a staff member
 - v. Narvick has to replace Technical Services cabinets with equal or better due to the accident of throwing them out
 - vi. Meeting Room furniture will be covered by the Per Capita Grant
- 4. Correspondence, Communications, and Public Comment**
 - a. None
- 5. Consent Agenda**
 - a. A motion was made by Keavney and seconded by Russell to approve the Consent Agenda. With the exception of the checking account because Cummings has questions 5-0
 - b. Barowsky explained the new checking account information including how it has already accrued over \$500 in less than two weeks. Also it was explained how the sweep account works from the new ICS account set up by Barowsky, Berndt and Grundy Bank.
 - c. A motion was made by Keavney and seconded by Keegan to approve the checking account financials 5-0
- 6. Interim Directors Report**
 - a. Community
 - i. The City of Morris will once again partner with the library for the summer series Movies in the Park. Barowsky met with the Community Affairs Director and they decided to go with three movies this summer, June, July and August. A survey will come out at the end of February with a list of movies to pick from. The first movie will coincide with our annual cultural event. This year the Joliet American Legion Band will perform in honor of the country's 250th celebration
 - ii. Burton and Murray attended a free community
 - b. Programs
 - i. Circulation numbers were up
 - ii. Our Summer Adventure theme for 2026 is Imagine What's Next tying the expansion and the country's 250th celebration
 - iii. Program numbers In January were high
 - c. Building
 - i. The ceiling in the staff break room has been completed
 - ii. The Nicor bill had Constellation Energy as its supplier and it was double the cost than if we used Nicor. The service has been cancelled
 - iii. HVAC issues are ongoing and the Facilities and Technology committee recommend we hire an engineer

- iv. We had a lot of issues with ice in January near the front entrance despite our efforts. The down spouts and gutters need to be evaluated in the spring
 - d. Professional Development
 - i. All staff has completed their Sexual Harassment Prevention Training for 2026
 - ii. Baldine, Barowsky, Burton, Fischer, Murray and Sargent attended the 2026 IPLAR Updates and Reporting Guidance Webinar on January 27th
 - iii. Barowsky and Murray attended the PrairieCat delegates meeting at the New Lenox Public Library on January 29th
 - iv. Trustees are required to complete Sexual Harassment Prevention Training. Barowsky sent links on January 15th
 - e. Follow up
 - i. Our Per Capita grant was submitted and we received confirmation that everything was in order
 - ii. Banking changes are ongoing due to the fact each board member has to individually DocuSign
 - f. Other Information
 - i. IPLAR now requires libraries to report training hours for library trustees. Barowsky has created a Google Form to fill out
 - ii. The IPLAR training also highlighted a few areas that we will need to address over the next few months
- 7. **President's report**
 - a. None
- 8. **Vice President's Report**
 - a. None
- 9. **Committee Reports**
 - a. **Finance Committee (Geiger)**
 - i. Absent
 - b. **Facilities & Technology Committee (Ebert/Russell)**
 - i. Had a meeting on January 15th regarding HVAC issues and hiring an engineer possibly April\May
 - c. **Personnel & Policy Committee (Cummings/Keavney)**
 - i. Covering in New Business
 - d. **Strategic Plan Committee (Keavney)**
 - i. None
- 10. **Review of Illinois Library Standard - Barowsky**
 - a. Advocacy & Community Engagement
- 11. **Unfinished business**
 - a. Approval of Director search firm and expenditure
 - i. A motion was made by Cummings and seconded by Ebert to accept Dieter & Todd pending needs assessment is included in price 5-0
 - ii. Concerns were raised regarding the lack of an identified funding source to support hiring this firm
- 12. **New Business**
 - a. Approval Ordinance No. 20260209-01 for the tax abatement for the pledged taxes levied for the year 2025
 - i. A motion was made by Cummings and seconded by Ebert to approve the consideration and approval of Ordinance No. 20260209-01 and movement of \$221,957.00 into Debit Service Fund 5-0
 - b. Approval of Policy Manual Section 1: Mission Statement and Objectives and Appendix: Library Bill of Rights
 - i. A motion to accept the updated Library Bill of Rights in the Policy Manual appendix was made by Cummings and seconded by Keegan
 - c. Approval of Policy Manual Section 2: Collection Development and Book Selection, Appendix: The Freedom to Read Statement, Appendix: Freedom to View Statement, and Appendix: Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Materials form
 - i. Cummings motioned to add Freedom to View statement to the Policy Manual and Keavney seconded
 - d. Approval of Pay Scale & Step Placement Policy, Appendix: Pay Grade Assignments, and Appendix: Organizational Chart
 - e. Approval of Non-Resident Services
 - i. A motion to accept the next fiscal year Non-Resident fee of \$136.00 was made by Cummings and seconded Russell 5-0

f. Endowment Distributions

- i. Last fiscal year the Baum Endowment grant was issued for \$8000.00 and was designated for the mural. The prior Director had stated to them that the wall would be preserved; however the wall was demolished. The mural was intended to be 14 x 8 feet, but there is currently not enough wall space to accommodate those dimensions. Keegan inquired about the possibility of creating a framed version of the mural instead. Barowsky reached out to the Community Foundation and they would still like to proceed with the mural, if not the grant money needs to be returned

13. Other

- a. None

14. Executive Session

- a. None

Executive session pursuant to 5ILCS 102/2: the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

Executive session pursuant to 5ILCS 102/3: the selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in this Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given the power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office when the public body is given the power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance.

15. Action on Executive Session

- a. None

16. Adjournment

- a. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 P.M. by Keavney and seconded by Keegan

_____, Board Secretary