Morris Area Public Library
September 14, 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 6:32 P.M.
   - **b.** Roll Call: Cummings (arrived at 6:35), Geiger, Keavney, Keegan, Peterson, and Russell were present. Ebert attended via Zoom after a vote.
   - **c.** Motion to approve remote attendance for Ebert. Moved by Keavney and seconded by Geiger. Approved 5-0
   - **d.** Library Director Hanson was present, along with guests Biasella, Burton, Fischer, and Sargent.
2. **Review of Agenda for Additions/ Changes**:
   - **a.** None
3. **Correspondence, Communications, and Public Comment**
   - **a.** Biasella mentioned a Post-it note found in a returned library book that said, "Thank you for all you do."
4. **Consent Agenda**
   - **a.** Cummings made a motion, seconded by Keavney, to approve the consent agenda with corrections to a misspelling of Russell's name; approved 7 - 0.
5. **Director's Report**
   - **a.** Community
     - i. Burton and Hanson met with the GCIC in August.
     - ii. Burton, Hanson, and Murray did an outreach with District 54 on Back to School Night.
     - iii. Barowsky and Hanson met with the Lyondell Bassell Community Action Panel to learn about what they do for the community.
   - **b.** Programs
     - i. There were good numbers on a variety of programs in August.
     - ii. August 1 was Children's Day; a fireman led story time, and children could touch emergency vehicles.
     - iii. The Art Exhibit was hosted at the Library and was a great success even though the Liberty Street Arts Festival was postponed.
   - **c.** Building
     - i. Narvick is working through the remaining punch list items while the architect and construction consultant continue to evaluate unexpected issues.
     - ii. Eallonardo suggests the leak problems in the community room may stem from old construction and travel to the new construction. The advanced testing might cost as much as replacing the roof. He will be present in the October meeting to discuss this issue.
   - **d.** Professional Development
     - i. Hanson met with Julie Buck at the Grundy County Foundation to discuss our endowment.
     - ii. There are six staff members attending the ILA convention in October. They will provide a brief reflection on what they learned.
   - **e.** Personnel:
     - i. Barowsky will be serving as the New Assistant Director for MAPL.
     - ii. Hanson is in communication with Joliet Junior College's Career Services to bring some interns to MAPL. We are looking into accounting/business as a paid internship, which may lead to a long-term position. We are also considering unpaid internships in library services, in coordination with their Library Technician degree program.
   - **f.** Follow up
     - i. The annual audit was completed on August 13. The only outstanding issue was a question about IMRF, which Barowsky has fixed.
   - **g.** Other Information
     - i. No Policy Manual Appendices were changed in August.

ii. Reminder of the upcoming trustee election cycle. For those who are interested in running (or re-running) for Library Board, the first day to circulate nominating petitions is August 25, 2026. These petitions must be completed and filed with Secretary Keegan between November 16 and November 23. The election will be April 6. 2027.
iii. The library is researching alternatives to the Square Account. A board member suggested we look into Zeffy, which works with nonprofit organizations.

6. **President's Report**
   a. None
7. **Vice President's Report**
   a. Cummings brought in books that provide information about being a Library Trustee. Other Trustees can borrow the books from the Director.
8. **Committee Reports**
   a. Finance Committee (Geiger)
      i. None
   b. Facilities & Technology Committee (Ebert/Russell)
      i. Will work on setting up a meeting in October.
   c. Personnel & Policy Committee (Cummings/Keavney)
      i. Will work on setting up a meeting in October. This committee needs to meet every month.
   d. Strategic Plan Committee (Keavney)
      i. None
9. **Review of Illinois Library Standards - Barowsky (presented by Hanson)**
   a. Marketing and promotion
      i. Need to work on accessibility standards that will be implemented in 2027.
      ii. Need to work on evaluating marketing.
10. **Unfinished business**
   a. A motion was made to consider and approve authorization to spend $36,196.37 of the General Contingency Allowance for Bathroom Door Sweeps and Closers, Data Outlets in Basement, Fiberglass Insulation Cover, Phase 2b Painting, and Added Carpeting, moved by Keavney and seconded by Keagan. Approved 7- 0
   b. A motion was made for authorization for Hanson to sign construction-related documents going forward and to keep Barowsky as an authorized signer, moved by Keavney and seconded by Geiger. Approved 7 - 0

11. **New Business**
   a. A motion was made to remove the former Business Manager from all Library banking accounts, designate Hanson as an authorized signatory, and keep Barowsky as an authorized signer. Moved by Cummings and seconded by Geiger. Approved 7-0
   b. A motion was made to automatically accept distribution of the Coulhard Endowment to the General Fund every year in July to align with the new fiscal year. Moved by Russell and seconded by Keavney. Approved 7 - 0.
   c. A motion was made to approve the Director to request distribution funds from the Baum and Bowker endowments each year in accordance with endowment specifications. Moved by Cummings and seconded by Geiger. Approved 7 - 0
   d. A motion was made to approve Hanson's proposal to offer BCBS PPO 2000 and BCBS HSA/HDHP (with library paying 100% of premiums), VSP Vision (with library paying 100% of premiums), and Dental PPO (with library paying 100% of premiums). Motioned by Keegan and seconded by Keavney. Approved 7 - 0.
   e. A motion was made to approve the Benefits policy update to require 35 hours of work per week and include verbiage stating that vision and dental are optional. Moved by Cummings and seconded by Geiger.

12. **Other**
   a. None
13. **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.

14. **Action on Executive Session**
    a. None
15. **Adjournment**
    a. Keavney moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 P.M., and Keegan seconded.

_____ , Board Secretary