

Eldora Public Library
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, January 27, 2026 – 5 p.m

Minutes were approved. Bills were approved.

Old Business

- Joan submitted the library's accreditation, and Kristin Gehrke signed off on it. We have always been a Tier III Library and will remain so. This is renewed every 3 years.
- Joan has not yet heard back about the Carnegie Library Grant. It is for \$10,000 with no restrictions.
- Jessi's last day was on January 9, and Joan advertised for an assistant director in several places. No qualified applicants were received. She will proceed with a shared schedule, which is shared in New Business.
- Additionally, Joan submitted a grant to the Hardin County Endowment Foundation. She hopes to fund the replacement of 6 computers.

New Business

- The assistant director's position is going to be split. 40 hours will be shared between Catie, Melissa, and Susan. Catie will work 11, Melissa 17, and Susan 12. Joan feels good about this arrangement for the time being, and we can post for an assistant director when the time comes. Catie will also receive a raise to match the other staff at \$16.50
- Joan is going to post and share an updated policy for the lobby. This is in response to continued misuse by a group of young women. The board added that patrons may not film other patrons. Mary moved, and Joe seconded.
- Joan shaved more than \$700 from the budget, even after last year's cuts. She has been present at all finance meetings with the city. More as things are updated.

Director's Report

- 939 checkouts and 4 new cards in January.

- Joan brought Scott Reister, author, to the elementary with the goal of reaching more students. Goal reached! A group of homeschool children and E-NP grades 3-5 attended the workshop. It was well-received.
- The annual boiler inspection occurred, and Brent from Waldingers was again helpful to supply information to pass this inspection.
- The annual fire alarm inspection was also passed.
- Joan recently participated in Apollo training to refresh new features in our system, and will attend the virtual ILOC this Thursday from 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Blind date with a book began with 10 already checked out.
- Joan will be present in many classes at the elementary for World Read Aloud Day.
- There is a finance meeting on February 5 at 3:30. Joan attends all these.
- There is a city council meeting on February 16 at 6 p.m. and a personnel meeting at 3:30 p.m. the same afternoon.
- In other city news, the Kiwanis will hold a brunch to support the aquatic center fundraiser. This will be Sunday, Feb. 15 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Submitted by Betsy Kuecker – Thursday Jan. 29, 2026

Next Meeting is February 24th at 5 p.m.

MINUTES

Eldora Public Library Board of Trustees

February 24, 2026

PRESENT: Kristin Gehrke, Jerry Trittien, Joe Herring, Emily Stoulil, Bob Alpers, Mary Swartz, and Joan Grothoff

- PUBLIC COMMENTS: Non
- MINUTES from the January 2026 meeting were approved
- BILLS were approved. A large item (\$2,982.61) was for repairs to the boiler.
- Old Business:
 - City Council approved the shared Assistant Library Director position with an hourly wage of \$16.50. Catie will remain Children's Librarian also at \$16.50/hr. All three will split 40 hrs/week. Brenda will remain a sub.
 - \$10,000 was received as a gift to all Carnegie Libraries. It will go into our Trust account and is to be used "to better our services to the community"
- New Business
 - City budget workshops are set for 2/25 and 3/17. Joan expects to be asked to make cuts, which she plans to do in book purchases, periodicals, and other misc. areas. She asks any board members who can attend the March date to be there to help support the library.
 - All Depts. Are on spending freeze; Joan is using Trust to make book purchases, and the City insisted on downgrading our TP quality for the bathrooms.
 - New Cricut has been purchased with Trust money. Supplies are being provided by Friends.
 - Summer reading planning is underway. Five performers lined up so far. Dates TBD based on school calendar.
- Direct's Report was received
 - Good numbers on checkouts
 - February programs went well, including Olympics reading challenge, Blind date + Book
 - After School Kids' Club remains strong; Teen room small but mighty.
 - Joan will attend a national virtual conference – Big Talk for Small Libraries
 - Spring Break (March 16-20) – Library will be closed Friday but open Sat. Several activities are planned for the week.

- Working on resuming adult programming in April
- Joan obtained current Library Board of Director
 - 2026: Kristin, Emily
 - 2027: Jerry, Bob
 - 2028: Joe, Mary, Betsy

Next Meeting: March 31, 2026

Submitted by Joe Herring

Eldora Public Library
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, March 31, 2025 – 5 p.m.

In attendance: Mary Swartz, Emily Stoulil, Joan Grothoff, Jerry Trittien, Betsy Kuecker,
Kristen Gehrke, Joe Herring

Minutes were approved. Bills were approved.

Old Business

- Kristin attended the budget workshop with the city while Joan was away. The library was not mentioned, but we sent representation for awareness. The library will remain the same. Staff will continue to share 40 hours.
- Cricut and supplies arrived; staff is still learning, and services will start soon.
- Still on a spending freeze.
- Job sharing continues. Brenda subbed while Joan was away on vacation.

New Business

- Joan cut an additional \$18,000 from the budget: \$6,000 from books and other small cuts from many line items. Joan plans to supplement book purchases with trust money and support from the Friends. Other reductions and donations may need to be sought to make things work. Joan continues to be resourceful and creative.
- The library was awarded \$6,000 from the Hardin County Community Endowment Foundation to purchase new computers. Joan plans to attend the awards night on April 9.
- \$2,000 was received from Church Women United to support the summer reading program. Summer reading planning is going well with just a few performers and events to complete.
- NextEra Energy met with Joan to let the library know it is eligible for a \$1,000 grant to support programming. Joan has sent initial paperwork.

Director's Report

- 1375 total checkouts and 2 new cards.
- Spring break activities included a leprechaun scavenger hunt (with more than 50 taking part), take and make crafts (25 taken), and Smash Bros. tournament (7 young people) and a STEM activity (4 attending).

- Friday of spring break the library was closed with no issue. Saturday did see an uptick in visitors.
- Passport services are being used.
- Catie was off the week of the 23rd, and Brenda came to support. Joan stretched staff to save money.
- The library will host the Revolutionary lowans display from March 31-July 31. It is free from PBS to celebrate the country's 250th anniversary.
- During April, the library will host: Tyler Sullivan – Iowa Scenic on Foot (April 2, 1pm), Kim White – Women in History (April 16, 10:30 am).
- Joan will attend a finance meeting on April 9 and the HCCEF awards in Hubbard. There is also a council meeting on April 14. Joan will also attend a POP YS virtual event on April 16 and 17. Department head meetings for the city are moving to Wednesday before and after council meetings.
- Melissa is not free any Saturdays in the spring due to soccer coaching. Catie is also not free, so Joan is absorbing Saturday hours. She will earn comp time, but acknowledges this is not a positive long-term solution.

Submitted by Betsy Kuecker

Next meeting on April 28th

Eldora Public Library
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, April 28, 2026 – 5 p.m.

In attendance: Emily Stoulil, Joan Grothoff, Jerry Trittien, Betsy Kuecker, Kristin Gehrke

Minutes were approved. Bills were approved.

Old Business

- The library joins the city in its current spending freeze. Joan is using money from the Trust and other support to buy books.
- Joan attended the April 9 HCCEF awards night to receive the \$6,000 grant for new computers.
- New Era Energy sent a \$1,000 grant check to the Friends of the Library. The funding requires recognition, so Joan will list and advertise them as a program sponsor sometime in the future. New Era is also coming to the Hardin Count Library Association meeting in May. Most of their work is in the Radcliffe area.

New Business

- The city budget, including the library, was approved at a special meeting on April 24. Amendments can be made in May. Bev Jones was the only council member not to approve the budget; she does not agree with all the cuts.
- Summer reading is set to run from June 1-July 10. The pool party will be scheduled for Monday, July 13 from 6-8pm. This is a switch from Saturdays; Joan hopes for greater attendance.
- Joan discussed extra staff hours to help with summer reading. Michelle said no, but Joan will work to adjust hours or cut staff hours later to make up for the additional work required for summer reading program.
- The library has been selling pool passes and trash stickers and bags to help the city, since city hall has reduced open hours.
- Donations continue to come in to the Friends of the Library, which is a help for summer reading and book purchases.
- Looking at our FY 2025 budget, there are line items that require corrections. Right now, health insurance is listed at 115% over budget. This is because the city has been charging for Susan's insurance, even though she is at part-time and not receiving that benefit.

- Going forward with the FY 2026 budget, note that the Friends of the Library will support adult programming and Joan will continue to be creative with grants and other donor support to purchase books.

Director's Report

- 1,125 total checkouts and 12 new library cards.
- April highlighted several programs: Tyler Sullivan (10 attendees, not well received), Kim White (8, well received), and Dwight Clark (16, well received).
- The open house had many attendees, and Amy Faris won the grant prize of a flower pot and \$20 gift card to Norby's. She is glad the library is fun, safe and great for everyone to enjoy.
- The new computers have arrived. In addition to the \$6,000 grant, the Friends allocated \$1,500 to finish the purchase. Staff computers are set up, and Scott Swartz will set up patron computers soon.
- After School Club ends May 13. The last Pokemon Club is May 14. The last Teen Room is May 18.
- Hardin County Library Association meets in Ackley on May 19.
- ENP Elementary classes will come to the library the week of May 18 to learn about the summer reading program.
- The library will be closed on Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day. It should be open Saturday, May 23.
- Summer reading sign up begins on Tuesday, May 26 – the last day of school.

Submitted by Betsy Kuecker

Eldora Public Library
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, May 26, 2026

In attendance: Joan Grothoff, Jerry Tritten, Emily Stoulil, Kristin Gehrke, Rober Alpers

Minutes were approved. Bills were approved.

Old Business

- The spending freeze will end in July.
- City Council will meet on May 26 for final budget amendments. Joan related that Miley Carter has resigned her position. Volunteer names to fill her position are welcomed.
- The library sales of swimming pool passes are going well and is much appreciated by the public.
- A solar panel arrangement for library and other city offices has been contracted by Red Lion Energy. It will be a “solar” car port for parked vehicles. Joan presented a picture of the proposed arrangement and will inquire about head clearance for larger service and delivery vehicles.
- Landscaping for the library’s west side has been requested. The city will till the ground and put down a covering of wood chips, river rock, or white stone. There might be a sitting bench, potted plants, and flowers. Estimates for a cedar privacy fence seemed overly expensive (\$8,800). With budget cuts, it would not appear financially frugal. Joan is looking to find endowment or grant money.
- Friends of the Library will finance up to \$300 for flowerpots at the front entry.
- Summer reading program sign-up begins May 26. The program includes varied activities and will meet every Monday. Joan is hoping to start an Adult Reading Program also.
- The error regarding health insurance overcharge for Susan’s status is being addressed. Joan is advocating that the library receives the financial reimbursement.

Director’s Report

- Using a sign-up procedure for the after-school program was very successful. The same will be used next year.
- Good Shepherd and ENP Elementary classes attended a summer reading introduction. Joan hopes to set a record with sign-ups.

- Our Allen Eskens HCLA October event will include area libraries with information tables. Grant and dues money will finance this event.
- Joan is buying books from an Ackley bookstore, Perennial Pages, which gives area libraries a 50% discount.
- Deb Johnson's Pine Lake history presentation was well received by 38 attendees. It was co-sponsored by the CCC. Stay tuned for Part 2.
- Emily Stoulil will present a strength training class on Thursday from 1-2.
- Our Kickoff event is planned for June 3. A 5:30 hamburger meal is planned and Joan hopes to employ a magician for a show from 6-7.
- Story Time with volunteer city workers will meet on Wednesday mornings for 6 weeks. Crafts, games, and a performer are planned for each week. Joan is offering an adult reading program also.

Next meeting is June 20, 5:00 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Submitted by Robert Alpers