



**Fayetteville Free Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
March 3, 2026**

**Present:** K. Blythe, J. Berg, P. Griffin, S. Gridley, J. Resig, M. Russell, W. Shepard, A. Stone, M. Whipps, H. Matzel, E. Burnham, L. Flanagan, L. Kraus, D. Gorman

**Absent:**

**Excused:**

**Call to Order:**

Shepard called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM

**Mission Moment:**

Kraus presented a selection of entries from the Valentine responses received by the library. 165 Valentine response received, many thanking the library for access to materials and being a place to make good memories.

**Public Comment:**

No public comments, no public attendee

**Approval of Minutes:**

Shepard called for a resolution to approve January 27, 2026; minutes as submitted. Stone (M); Griffin (S); unanimous approval

**Review of Financial Reports:**

Russell: presented the Treasures Report. The library continues to operate with a positive variance in income due to higher sales at the book sale and more donations for the Annual Giving Campaign than originally budgeted. Investment interest has also contributed. Expenses are trending under the budgeted amount except in the utilities line. The library is at a net positive variance.

Shepard called for a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented: Gridley (M); Berg (S); unanimous approval

Russell presented the proposed 2026/2027 library operating budget. This is the first proposed budget to exceed the tax cap in 8 years. The rising utilities costs and increase in minimum wage are some of the things necessitating this course of action. The proposed increase is 3.95%. Discussion ensued.

Shepard called for a resolution to accept the 2026/2027 proposed library operating budget as presented:

Stone (M); Blythe (S); unanimous approval

**Report of the President:**

Shepard – Thank you to library staff and Finance Committee for their work on the 2026/2027 budget. The library's proposed budget will be voted on by the community on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Please serve as ambassadors of the library and help get out the vote. The East Wing renovation project is underway- thank you to the estate donation by Dan Kirkley and the grant writing efforts of the library staff, this project is not funded by the library's operating budget. The May board meeting will include an executive session to discuss the annual performance review of the Executive Director.

**Report of the Executive Director:**

Matzel presented the draft of the 2025 Annual Report to the Community. Discussion ensued, highlight graphics will be added to the Makerspace information, a typo will be corrected, and one number will be updated.

Shepard called for a resolution to accept the Annual Report to the Community with the proposed edits:

Griffin (M); Gridley (S); unanimous approval

**Board Committee Reports:**

Facilities- Resig reported the committee met on February 25th and discussed the East Wing renovations, building maintenance items, and the continued desire to move the library forward with fossil free fuel initiatives.

Governance- Shepard reported that the committee will be meeting before the May board meeting.

**Board Action Items:**

Shepard called for a resolution to approve the release of \$621,026 board restricted funds for the East Wing renovation project:

Resig (M); Stone (S); unanimous approval

**Adjournment:**

Berg called for a motion to adjourn. 7:11 PM:

Berg (M); Griffin(S); unanimous approval

Respectfully submitted:

Laurel Flanagan- Operations & Facilities Manager