

ALICE BAKER MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Approved

Call to Order: D. Knauer called the meeting to order at 6:30pm on March 9, 2026.

Roll Call: M. Rice, K. Anderson, B. Puza, D. Knauer, and H. Lang were present. R. Spurrell and M. Faretta were excused. Also present were Library Director A. Chase and FABLE president Mary Russell.

Pledge of Allegiance: D. Knauer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Review/Approval of meeting minutes from February 9, 2026: Motion by M. Rice to approve meeting minutes as presented. Second by B. Puza. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Review/Approval of Library Financial Report: The Board had several questions about the Financial report including old CD statements, the large cost on the Claims Report which A. Chase said was replacements for three staff computers, and a negative line item on the Profit and Loss which A. Chase said was from a credit. Motion by M. Rice to approve Library Financial Report as presented. Second by H. Lang. Motion carried (5-0).

Review/Approval of Library Board Treasurer's Report: M. Rice noted a new CD was opened by rolling over the balance from the maturing CD. A. Chase signed the CD tonight and M. Rice will collect R. Spurrell's signature tomorrow. D. Knauer noted LGIP rates may be more advantageous than a CD in the future. Motion by H. Lang to approve the Library Board Treasurer's Report. Second by M. Rice. Motion carried (6-0).

Discussion/Action on audit update: A. Chase reports she has no further update; she and S. Johanson gave documentation to the auditor. The last she knew the auditor said credit card charges with a December purchase date could be charged to December. D. Knauer requested A. Chase to ask the auditor for an update. No action was taken.

Discussion/Action on WTA cybersecurity grant and changing Library emails to .gov: A. Chase reported M. Mercier at Bridges will start the email migration tomorrow. No action was taken.

Discussion/Action on Director Job Description: A. Chase presented a new Job Description with the edits noted at the last meeting. Motion by H. Lang to approve the Job Description with one statement struck to make congruent with the Joint Agreement. Second by M. Rice. Motion carried (5-0).

Discussion/Action on Director job posting: A. Chase reported the description is posted at Bridges, Milwaukee and Madison colleges, and several other locations in Wisconsin. D. Knauer presented written comments from R. Spurrell noting we have three resumés and a letter suggesting that the ABML be restructured to be under a Joint Director with another library.

Discussion/Action to set a date for a special meeting to review resumes: Motion by M. Rice to set March 24th, 2026 at 6:30pm for review of the resumes. Second by H. Lang. Motion carried (5-0).

Discussion/Action on Strategic Plan update: A. Chase reported she had the "theming" discussion with the plan coach. The next assigned step is due March 31st. D. Knauer asked about the survey results; A. Chase will send the PowerPoint presentation with WILS' survey results to the Board. No action was taken.

Discussion/Action on email newsletters: A. Chase reported she started looking into LibraryAware then emailed other directors for ideas; other directors asked why ABML needs another outlet for information distribution. The Library currently uses platforms including social media, Dear Reader, and the website calendar for updates. The Board discussed how residents have asked for the newsletter to be emailed, specifically with flash book sale dates. A. Chase will look into LibraryAware and gather more information about emailing the newsletter. No action was taken.

Discussion/Action on Library open hours: D. Knauer noted that the library is not open at hours conducive to serving working people. Motion by K. Anderson to change the library hours as a trial run through the summer starting Memorial Day: Tuesdays from 10am-7pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm. Second by M. Rice. Motion carried (5-0).

Discussion/Action on the 3-D printer: A. Chase stated the staff will only use the printer themselves; therefore, we do not need a policy. The Board discussed the importance of having the printer available to the public in some capacity as soon as possible; otherwise, it would be a wasted purchase. Motion by K. Anderson for staff to complete training by the end of August and have the new Director present a completed policy within 3 months of hire, with the goal of having the printer usable by January, 2027. Second by M. Rice. Further discussion by H. Lang noted that M. Faretta had comments about the 3-D printer and requested we keep it on next month's agenda to give an update to the rest of the Board. Motion carried (5-0).

Discussion/Action on a storage shed: D. Knauer presented R. Spurrell's written comment that he is working to obtain a quote at Oakridge for a closet on the north side of the building. Motion by H. Lang to table. Second by M. Rice. Motion carried (5-0).

Discussion/Action on Collection Development Policy: H. Lang presented an incomplete draft of the policy. There was significant discussion surrounding this policy.

D. Knauer noted references to the library should be congruent and use the library's full legal name in policies, unless specifically indicated.

K. Anderson expressed concern that this policy says we are taking an active role in protecting children. If we say protection of children is the parents' responsibility, the library could be sued for also taking that responsibility by excluding materials that may cause harm. She also stated that this policy draft puts us on a slippery slope to censorship, argued that there is a library exemption of the felony charges in WI §948.11(4)(b) which states, "No person who is an employee, a member of the board of directors or a trustee of any of the following is liable to prosecution for violation of this section for acts or omissions while in his or her capacity as an employee, a member of the board of directors or a trustee:...(5) A library that receives funding from any unit of government," and recommended that parents simply be advised that their children could access things that are harmful. She also stated that the ALA's Freedom to Read and Library Bill of Rights statements will be held as ethical standards by any Director applying for the position, and striking this sentence would be offensive to a potential applicant.

M. Rice stated that protecting children is the responsibility of everyone. He said adults do this throughout the rest of our society, and we should do that in the library as well. He argued that the ALA's position is that everyone, including minors, can access absolutely anything, which K. Anderson agreed is the ALA's position. He stated this policy is establishing ethical standards because the ALA does not. He also pointed out that with parental consent, minors can access harmful materials; we are simply protecting minors, without parental consent, from items statutorily defined as harmful to children. M. Rice stated if the ethical standard of an ALA-accredited director is to allow children to access things that are harmful to them, that director should not be running our library. He stated the Freedom to Read and Library Bill of Rights statements are not in alignment with what many on this Board believe; therefore, if

a director does not want to work here because this Board disagrees with those statements, that person does not have to.

H. Lang stated that the two items specifically excluded from the library are things that should obviously be restricted: sexually explicit images and materials that tend to promote or incite the reader to have a reaction of physical violence. K. Anderson asked for an example of violent material that meets this definition; M. Rice gave the example of a book on how to poison your parents. K. Anderson said no director, especially a Masters prepared director, would put that in the library. H. Lang argued it is then not wrong to explicitly state such in the policy. H. Lang stated that undue censorship is a real consideration to avoid, but we would have to write the policy in a much more restrictive way to improperly censor. Requiring that the library keep out sexually explicit images and things that promote or incite physical violence is not inappropriate censorship; the state does not require us to provide children with things like pornography or things that obviously cause harm.

H. Lang argued that the intent of WI §948 library exemption is not for the library to be the one place in society where children can access things that are harmful to them. H. Lang also argued that upholding parental responsibility does not mean the library can give children access to harmful materials unless the parents are physically present saying the child cannot access them. Everyone in society has the responsibility to protect children from things that are harmful to them, but parents have the authority to say otherwise.

Motion by K. Anderson to table the policy until next month with the new policy draft being sent to the Board by Monday, April 6th. She requested we focus on the “Standards” and “Objectives” segments at the next meeting. Second by M. Rice. Motion carried (5-0).

Discussion/Action on the Bylaws: Motion by M. Rice to table until next meeting. Second by H. Lang. Motion carried (5-0).

Reports:

a. Village of Eagle: D. Knauer presented a written comment from R. Spurrell noting that the door between the library and the hall should be closed, at very least while the building is closed.

b. Town of Eagle: D. Knauer reported on income and expenses, radios, the teen committee, now hiring a DPW employee, considering John's garbage service over GFL, issues with a Planning and Zoning Commission case, and the Act 150 meeting needing to reconvene.

c. PEASD: K. Anderson reported they participated in Read Across America, some students are making Tiny Art for the library display, the dance team took second at state, lifting also scored well, and they are beginning budgeting and summer school program plans.

d. FABLE: M. Russell stated they had a flash book sale, April 6-11 will be another book sale, FABLE is providing refreshments for the Tiny Art reception, the coffee hour is going well, and it will be Pie Day on Saturday.

e. Youth Services: A. Chase's packet contained a report.

f. Director: A. Chase provided her packet. Circulation was -224 (-8.15%) for February this year.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items: A. Chase requested the Year-End 2025 Financial Report and the Annual Report for 2025; she will need to unlock and change the annual report and have the Board approve it at the next meeting.

Adjournment: Motion by M. Rice to adjourn. Second by H. Lang. Motion carried (5-0). Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.