

February 23, 2026 EMPL Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

President Van Thompson called the July meeting of the Library Board to order at 3:30pm

Present: Van Thompson, James A. Hoffman, Lynn Colgan, Debbie VanderBeke, Pam Muehling, Linda Nelson

Absent: Mereleena Olvera, Linda Gates, Evenlyn Stokes

Also Present: Bianca Sierra

Introduction of Visitors: Celeste Cologne

Public Comment: Celeste requested the library return the money she paid for lost materials in July 2025.

Consent Agenda ACTION: Reviewed minutes of January meeting. Reviewed purchase card spending for January. Reviewed bills paid for January. Debbie made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Pam seconded. Motion passed.

Financial Reports from the City of East Moline: Reviewed January Revenue and Expenditure report and account balance reports.

Library Report: Director and HR are finalizing 2026 staff goals. Director shared the conferences staff would be attending in 2026. Director shared several bans issues since the last meeting. Presented updated schematic for vehicle charging station. Provided update on library vehicle including recent donors and added elements of the fundraising campaign. Library has two Dine to Donate nights set up with local businesses and will continue to seek partnerships. Provided update on the 72nd District Grant which will now be awarded through the City of EM and not the FRIENDS. The Library will host a trivia event in April for library staff. Library website is a work in progress. The library was awarded the PNG grant and will launch the EMPL Digital Art Series in June. Library has partnered with RBFB to help provide snacks for the juvenile snack pantry.

Committee Reports: There were no questions regarding the January Finance Committee meeting.

Business:

Action 1: Director and board president reviewed the Matthews Specialty Vehicle Bid with the board and answered questions. Van made a motion to accept the bid as is. Pam seconded. Motion passed.

Action 2: Reviewed the draft agreement with Transitions Mental Health Services for Social Worker. Discussion on how services would be provided and if/when patrons with insurance and Medicare/Medicaid would be billed. Pam made a motion to approve the agreement for a trial period of 3 months. Lynn seconded. Motion passed 5-1. Linda Nelson voted no.

Action 3: Board reviewed the incident report involving Robert Sester and unanimously agreed to continue the trespass until further notice.

Strategic Plan Committee: The Director shared that Pam Muehling, Van Thompson, Tami Cox, Mary Beth Wood, Kate Tredway, and Olivia Dorothy would form the 2027-2029 Strategic Planning Committee with Director and OP Supervisor. First meeting to take place Friday March 6. The focus

will be working on a survey for the committee. If board members have any input for the strategic plan please send to the director or share at the next board meeting.

Review Updated Illinois Standards for Libraries: Director recommended tabling this until next meeting.

Presidents Items: Van shared that the library had already received the final payment of the Hubbell-Waterman grant and the remainder of the mortgage would be paid from funds the City of EM had specifically allocated to the library to support the building.

Director shared that the social worker would be paid out of the professional services budget instead of salaries due the social worker being contracted by a third party.

Meeting adjourned at 4:57pm.