

**Marshalltown Public Library
May 19, 2026**

Members Present: Sandy Bennett, Ashtyn Beek, Erik Hall, Lea Husak (remote), Ronnie Manis
Absent: Tonya Gaffney, Ruzan Morrison
Staff: Joa LaVille, Katie Fink **Absent:** Sarah Rosenblum
Recording Secretary: Sandy Gowdy

Vice President Sandy Bennett called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Public Comment: Comments were made by John Worden, Ray Mitchum and Jeff Hutton
Board Comment: There were no comments.

Approval of the Agenda: Moved/seconded (Hall/ Manis) to approve an amended agenda. Passed.

Approval of the April 21, 2026 Minutes: The minutes were corrected to read *Macy Freese*. It was moved/seconded (Beek, Hall) to approve the amended minutes. Passed.

Approval of the Bills: It was moved/seconded (Manis/Beek) to approve the bills. Passed.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: ** the order of business items was shuffled to accommodate members who had to leave early.

A: *Statement of Concern Submitted 4/21/2026:*

Concerning the Statement of Concern received at the April Board meeting, Katie put together a document about problematic authors; including reviews from *Booklist*, *Kirkus*, etc. Also, an ALA document about challenges of problematic authors. Also included were MPL circulation statistics for James Patterson/Brendan DuBois titles. Discussion followed. It was moved/seconded (Beek/Manis) to take no action on the request for removal. The motion passed 4:1.

Member votes:

Bennett	Aye
Beek	Aye
Hall	Nay
Husak	Aye
Manis	Aye

B: *Interior Renovation Update:* The lighting has arrived. Three change orders will be presented to the City Council on May 26.

1. Remove the glass between the study rooms
2. Replace the current trash enclosure
3. Construct a new shed to accommodate outdoor programming and maintenance equipment

C: *Accreditation Status Update:* The accreditation process has been completed and has been approved through June 2029. This will allow the library to receive Open Access funds as well as Direct State Aid.

D: *Staff Reports:*

Katie:

- There will be changes to the book sale procedures. Now all book sale funds will go to the library's gift fund and not to the Friends of the Library.
The annual September sale will be turned over to FOL members

- Tonya Gaffney is stepping down as board president in July. She will remain as a board member. New officers will be elected in July.
- Kimberly Becerra has been hired as full-time Public Services Librarian.
- Applications are being taken for a new Library Assistant.

Joa:

- "Plant a Seed, Read" is the summer reading theme for both youth and adults.
- Both adults and youth will be using Beanstack again to keep track of summer reading.
- Staff is working on programming, speakers, etc. BUSY!

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 16 at 5:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony B. B. B." with a stylized, cursive script.