



Auburn Public Library District

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Meeting Minutes Auburn Public Library District Board Meeting November 18th, 2025 7 PM

Call to order: A regular meeting of the Auburn Public Library District Board of Trustees was held in Auburn, IL, 62615, on November 18th, 2025. The meeting convened at 7:30 pm. President Lacy Strader presiding, and Ashley Jarrett, secretary.

Roll call to establish quorum:

Board Attendees:

1. Lacy Strader: present
2. Monica Garrett: present
3. Ashley Jarrett: present
4. Dan Dixon: absent

Staff:

Amanda Kendall, Library Director: present
Nicole Szymiski, Librarian: present
Katie Horath, Aide: present

Visitors:

None

- I. Approval of minutes:
 - a. *Motion:* Moved by Lacy Strader to accept the minutes of the October 2025 meeting
Motion carried.
- II. Consent Agenda
 - a. Youth services, A/V and adult circulation all up from September
 - b. Total circulation up 11% from last year
 - c. 3 new instagram followers and increased story views from sessions at ILA
 - d. 11 new patrons!

- e. Amanda will add sub stack soon
- f. *Motion:* Moved by Lacy Strader that the Consent Agenda be approved.
Motion carried.

III. New Business

- a. Narcan training and display
 - i. Amanda, Nicole and Katie were trained by the Phoenix center to administer Narcan
 - ii. There is a display in the library with nirvana available to the public as well as fentanyl testing strips
 - iii. Lots of positive feedback
 - iv. Several people have taken Narcan
- b. Grants and Sponsorships
 - i. Amanda applied for a grant for increased Spanish and Bilingual books for 0-13 year olds
 - ii. Amanda reached out to GFS for sponsorship of a Spice program and was denied
 - iii. Amanda reached out to Caseys for sponsorship of Family Movie Night program and was approved
 - 1. Idea is to check out a movie under a theme and then receive a bag of popcorn from the library and be entered into a drawing at the end of the month to win a free large pizza from Casey's
 - iv. Stuttering foundation has reached out about resources
 - v. KASE project brings communication boards to parks, talked about how this could be beneficial at the library
 - vi. Looking into a story walk, possibly at East Park, and a grant to pay for this
- c. Pandemic-Era board equipment question
 - i. No longer relevant!
- d. Sink hole
 - i. Opened up behind the library parking lot, was fixed by city workers but the parking lot was closed while repairs were done
- e. Maintenance
 - i. Plumbing- Snell fixed toilet
 - ii. Electric- Electrician is coming to look at ballasts, several lights are burned out
 - iii. Landscaping- Fall cleanup was completed, including weeding and trimming bushes

IV. Unifinished Business

- a. ILAAC 25 Recap
 - i. Nicole
 - 1. Brought back lots of ideas including adult summer reading programs, traveling story time (at a farm?), America's 250th anniver-

sary community cookbook and garden walk, graphic novel society for teens

2. Cataloging and processing tips and contacts
 3. Youth services ideas- figuring out what your community needs
 - a. Buddy/mentor program
 - b. Toy swap after Christmas
 - c. Teen cooking club or tasting party
 - d. Felt food no sew pillows or crochet
 - e. Teen paint and snack
 - f. Arts and writing programs for teen/preteen
 - g. Tween book club- instead of everyone reading the same book, everyone reads a book with a common theme and then discuss their own books with everyone and then do a craft or experiments
 4. Summer reading—Plant a seed, read!
 - a. Promo video starring Amanda and Nicolę?
 - b. Books for breakfast day
 - c. Grow, sprout, grow- greenhouse
 - d. Farm to fable- fairy tales
 5. Connecting library to local schools and daycare and field trips for elementary kids
 6. Empathy into story time and social emotional learning
- ii. Amanda
1. Sessions include critical hope, diversity audit (making sure a minimum threshold of diversity is met to reflect community), streamlining surveys so that the information needed for grants is given, loneliness epidemic (possible “third space Thursday” for people with puzzles or crafts)
 2. Community mural for America’s 250th
 3. Spice Club- flyer with recipes and facts in a kit with a small amount of a spice for people to take
 4. Passive programing- adding a puzzle table
 5. Firming up volunteer programming
 - a. Including help with resumes and mock interviews to prepare youth for college and careers
 6. Caregiver support group
 - a. Journaling for grief
 - b. Death cafe- talk about mortality with cake
 - c. Living will letters to loved ones about what you learned and want to pass on to them

b. HVAC update

- i. Big HVAC has a new motor now and it works!

- 1. Ameren will put a monitor on it in the summer to make sure it continues to function effectively
 - ii. Little HVAC installed and works!
 - iii. Ceiling tiles will be replaced and the fence will be put back up now that repairs are done
 - c. Shed update
 - i. A company will deliver, install and level the wood shed
 - d. District Expansion Consultant Update
 - i. Amanda had her first call with the consultant
 - ii. Amanda will talk to the lawyer Phil Lenzini about next steps with district expansion

V. Treasurer's Report

- a. None

VI. Directors Report

- a. Facility
 - i. Closed November 27, 28, December 24, 25, 31 and January 1
- b. Staff
 - i. Update on staff goals
- c. Programming
 - i. Upcoming holiday programs
 - 1. Grinch story time December 12 at 6 pm
 - 2. Santa pajama party December 18th at 6 pm
 - 3. Happy Noon Year December 31st at 11 am
 - 4. Letters to Santa
- d. Fundraising
 - i. Upcoming: Giving Tuesday
 - 1. Amazon wishlist
- e. Other
- f. *Motion:* Moved by Lacy Strader to accept the director's report.
- g. Motion carried.**

VII. Committee Report

- a. Budget/Finance Committee- Amanda, Nicole, Lacy, Ashley, Dan
- b. Policy Committee-Amanda, Nicole, Lacy, Dan, Monica
- c. Building Maintenance Committee- Amanda, Nicole, Lacy, Monica
- d. District Expansion Committee- Amanda, Nicole, Lacy, Ashley
- e. Ad Hoc Committee

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Adjournment: Lacy Strader made a motion to adjourn to closed session.

- a. Motion carried.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 9:31 pm

X. Recall from Closed session

- a. Call to order 9:41 pm
- b. Lacy Strader: present
- c. Monica Garrett: present
- d. Ashley Jarrett: present
- e. Dan Dixon: absent
- f. Amanda Kendall: present
- g. Nicole Szymiski: present
- h. Katie Horath: present

XI. Recap from Closed Session

- a. No raises given this year as we are over budget on salary already
- b. Bonuses voted on and will be given this year

XII. Announcements

- 1. Next meeting is January 20th, 2026

XIII. Adjournment: Lacy Strader made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 pm.

Motion carried.