MINUTES
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DEKALB PUBLIC LIBRARY
BILDER FAMILY MEETING ROOM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026
6:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Laura Anderson, Deborah Booth, Andrea Dahlberg, Rhiannon Gruber, Rebecca Hunt, Kelli Meserole, Ann Shult, Alex Tobias, Betsy Zimmerman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

LIBRARY STAFF PRESENT: Emily Faulkner, Samantha Hathaway, Ryan Racine

GUESTS PRESENT: SMC Representative, John Shales and Teddy Ellis

CALL TO ORDER:
The meeting was called to order by Hunt at 6:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA
None

PUBLIC COMMENTS
None

OATH OF OFFICE: Laura Anderson, Ann Shult, Alex Tobias

COMMUNICATIONS
None

ANNOUNCEMENTS
A. Next upcoming after-hours program: Friday, April 17, 6:30 p.m., NIU Steelband
B. ILA Trustee Training Webinar: March 7 (recorded), April 4, May 9
C. Officer elections and Committee Assignments at April meeting

MINUTES
A. Approve January 14, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes: Meserole moved to approve January 14, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Gruber. Motion passed with three abstentions from new Board members who were not present.

REPORTS
A. Director's Report – January. Reviewed.
B. Director's Report – February. Reviewed. Zimmerman asked about the possibility of having a phone that patrons can use. Faulkner explained that we are in the process of determining a device and procedure for that purpose.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS
A. Review Trustee Facts Files – Chapters 2 and 3. Reviewed.
B. Review Standards for Libraries – Chapter 2: Advocacy and Community Engagement and Chapter 3: Building and Grounds. Reviewed.

C. Courtyard Project Design Presentation – Hannah Prevedel Cannon, Woolpert and John Shales, SMC: Prevedel Cannon outlined three concepts for the courtyard design. The Board discussed the options at length and noted that only one concept maintained the original main entrance as a possibly useable door in the future. Faulkner noted that two additional costs of tuckpointing and East window replacement would be cost-effective to include in the project. Shales outlined how the costs were determined for each concept. Maintaining the historic element of the Haish building plays a role in the ultimate cost.

D. Construction Manager At-Risk Presentation – John Shales, SMC: Shales gave an overview of the construction manager position opposed to hiring an Owner's Representative or a General Contractor. He outlined the differences of 'at-risk' and 'advisory' construction managers.

E. Approve Courtyard Project Design Option for Construction: The Board continued to discuss the different concepts. They decided that they would like to keep the integrity of the original main entrance, and keep it as a possibly functioning door in the future. Meserole moved to approve Concept #3 with alternates #4 and #6 addressing tuckpointing and East window replacement. Seconded by Zimmerman. Motion passed.

F. Approve Biblioteca Sorter Removal and Replacement: Faulkner reported on the Biblioteca quote to remove and replace the sorting machine. Racine detailed the new sorter that would eliminate the book elevator system and keep the lower-level staff induction point. It would be reduced to a seven-bin system. Meserole moved to approve the Biblioteca Sorter Removal and Replacement quote for $165,464.00. Seconded by Booth. Motion passed via roll call; 9-0.

G. Approve Xerox Printer Replacements: Faulkner gave a brief overview on replacing the color copier in Youth Services and the black and white copier in the computer lab. Gruber moved to approve Xerox Printer Replacements at $22,570.00 Seconded by Dahlberg. Motion passed via roll call; 9-0.

FINANCE

A. Approve January 2026 and February 2026 Monthly Bills: Meserole moved to approve the January 2026 and February 2026 monthly bills. Seconded by Booth. Motion passed via roll call; 9-0.

B. Review Financials: Reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Zimmerman moved to adjourn. Seconded by Shult. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.