

Madison County Library
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes (draft)
Jan 21, 2026

Attending: Charles Carter, Mary Anne Hankla, Sandra Nowell, Diane Heckel, Gary Jones, Bonnie Utz, Sam Cate, Molly Walters, Kate Rakowski, Jill Quinley, Cindy Taylor, Cheryl Yowell

Opening:

Diane called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Molly moved and Sandra seconded to approve Nov 19, 2025 minutes. All in Favor.

Expansion Committee

- Mr. Puckett came to speak about moving forward with the plans to build the elevator with the grant we were awarded.
 - He will draw up building plans, put bids out to general contractors, and serve as construction administrator during the building process.
- Cindy suggested doing a press announcement to generate interest.
 - She will write it and perhaps include some interviews and videos.
 - We may do another later in the process once we've selected a contractor.
 - Finally, we will have a ribbon cutting ceremony when it's done.
- Bonnie will need to organize moving books and the children's section to empty the space around the library shaft.

Nomination committee/elections - Molly

- Kate nominated and Sandra seconded the motion to re-elect the current people serving as President, Secretary, and treasurer. All approved.
- Kate nominated and Molly seconded accepting new/returning board member Steve Shilan and electing him VP. All in favor.

Library Director's Report: Bonnie

Library Statistics 7/1/25 thru 1/20/26

Circulation totals: **21,282**

Overdrive e-book and audio usage: **4673**

Patrons Added: **104 Adult 50 Child**

Updated Patrons: **922**

WiFi usage: **4,740 sessions for a total of 5,922 hours**

Titles added: **889**

Update:

- All of the usual have been going along smoothly. We did add one special night to our outreach programs, A Literacy Night at the Madison Primary School. Fran and I set up a

table, handed out applications and swag bags for the kids. All were appreciated and we reminded some parents that we were still around.

- My time has been taken up with the rearranging of the sections and books in the library. During the elevator construction, I will have to rearrange the library so that the children's area is moved and usable where we put it. Adults understand change and movement (grudgingly), but children do not. I have reached out to the state to see if they could help, but the position of Library building consultant was removed. I have reached out to my regional group of directors to see if they had either experience or could point me to someone who had. I have a couple of movers and a couple of more suggestions for football teams and others.
- My biggest need is to know a timeline for this. Is it going to occur at the same time as our summer reading programs?? I will be able to plan more accurately, when I have times nailed down.

Treasurer's report: Gary

- Report attached

Committee reports

FOL - Jill

- We had the open house with the forensics team in December. We made \$195 to donate to their travel.
 - Perhaps the date should be moved back to November to avoid busy schedules in December.

Grounds and maintenance - Charles

- The front porch is seriously rotted and damaged. It could be a liability.
 - Charles is working to find a contractor to do the work on it.
 - Different codes will apply if it is a repair vs an entire replacement.
- Charles has been replacing lightbulbs. They don't last very long.
- The lock on the bathroom door needs replacing.
- We have an offer from a neighbor to donate spotlights to illuminate the housefront.
 - We only have electricity in the gazebo, not the rest of the lawn. If we get the lights, we can figure out how to install them as inexpensively as possible.

Fundraising -

- Charles nominated and Kate seconded Molly for chair of this committee
- Bonnie would like the board to send thank yous to the Volunteer rescue squad and the Thompson Fund.
 - Cheryl will write letters that the whole board can sign.

Five year plan - Ruth

- Action Items for January
 - Governance and Administration
 - Prepare an annual report for local officials regarding fiscal and policy matters affecting the library and library performance. (Bonnie and Gary) - Done
 - Review the Library Director's performance annually with input from the entire Board. (Board) - Diane will find the form and behind work on this.
 - Attend county and town meetings, work sessions, and public hearings affecting policy and library financing as needed. (Bonnie and Gary) - scheduled for Feb 14
 - Nominate and elect officers for the Board. (Board) - done
 - Building and Grounds
 - Develop a timeline and plans for the elevator and expansion into the lower level of the library building. (Expansion Committee) - done with Mr. Puckett
 - Maintain building and grounds including the front porch. (Charles) - done

Endowment - Charles

- The volunteer rescue squad gave us a \$227,500 donation from the funds they had leftover after their disbanding.
 - There was discussion about what to do with this money.
- The committee needs to meet and determine plans for our donated and awarded funds.

New Business

- Meeting dates - 3/18 25, 5/20, 7/15 22, 9/16, 11/18
- We will have a special meeting on Wednesday 2/18 to re-open the discussion of the expansion plans. We can make a decision on plans at that time. Then we can proceed with developing our choice in order to present it at the ribbon cutting of the elevator.
- Internet policy needs some updating.
 - Cheryl will do this.

Our next regular meeting will be Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 7 PM.

Kate moved and Steve seconded for adjournment. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM.