

# BREESE LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES

## **Secretary's Report - 08/12/25**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by President Angie Becker.

**Trustees present:** Angie Becker, Jamie Fields, Gwen Fischer, Bonnie Holzinger, Judy Kampwerth, Allison Netemeyer, Angela Richter, Cyndi Riley and Jean Steinman.

**Trustees absent:** None

**Also attending:** Library Director Jenna Astroth and City Council Liaison Gary Usselmann

**Secretary's Report:** A quorum was established. Allison Netemeyer made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report and Cyndi Riley seconded it. The motion was approved with all ayes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jean Steinman made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and it was seconded by Angela Richter. The motion was approved on a roll call vote.

- Jenna said the Library received a refund for the Director's Academy class that Meagen Holthaus was going to attend. Jenna will not be able to attend in her place because the sign-up had to be submitted prior to May 1st. Jenna will sign up when the class is offered next year.

## **Librarian's Report:**

### **A. Summer Reading Program Wrap-Up**

- Jenna said a total of 96 kids signed up for the Summer Reading Program and 56 kids completed the program. She received a lot of compliments on the program and the staff members who organized and ran the event.

### **B. Upcoming Programs**

- Chrystal Brown Children's Storytime and Book Signing -
  - August 19th from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- U of I presenting "Hoppy Friends" Event
  - September 8th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Breese Lions Club to host Halloween Storytime Event
  - October 18th from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- Old Time Magic Show Event
  - November 8th from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Breese Junior Women's Club (BJWC) "Grinchmas" Event
  - November 29th

### **C. Teen Tober**

- Jenna plans to schedule events for teens throughout the month of October
  - Pumpkin decorating
  - Dungeons and Dragons
  - Teen Book Club

D. September is Library Card Sign-Up Month

- Jenna would like to hold an open house on September 2nd from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. for a Library Card Sign-Up Event. She plans to get a soft-serve ice cream machine and give away free ice cream to those who attend.

**Unfinished Business:**

A. Building Committee updates

- The grass that was planted in the front of the library died. Kelly Zurliene had previously requested a bid from Chris Hilmes with Emerald Edge Lawns for placing sod. He submitted a bid for \$2,880.00. Gary Usselmann told the board that Don Voss said he would plant grass this fall at a cost of \$100.00. The board agreed to have Don Voss reseed the lawn.

**New Business:**

- A. Property Taxes - it was brought to the board's attention that many of the property tax bills sent out to Breese residents did not show a 2025 tax amount for the Breese Public Library. Gwen Fischer spoke with Dorothy Elling at the Clinton County Clerk's office who informed her that there was a software glitch that caused the problem. They are addressing it with the software company and putting procedures in place to prevent it from happening in the future. She confirmed that the Library will receive their tax distribution for this year. She said they want transparency and are currently having discussions on how to best inform the Breese residents who were affected by this. Dorothy said the tax amount that should have been shown for the Breese Public Library on the 2025 tax bill will be shown on the 2026 tax bill (in addition to the 2026 tax amount).
- B. Benches - there was a discussion on the benches proposed for the front of the library. The Breese Lions Club will be donating a bench to the library and the library wants to purchase a matching bench in memory of Jim Sprengel and Yvonne Raterman using the money that was donated in their memory. Several board members had photos of benches as possible choices. They will get additional information on availability and pricing. There was also a discussion on having a concrete pad poured for the benches. Gary Usselmann said the city agreed to pour the pads. The board agreed that the pads should be poured before the grass is planted. The board will make a decision on the benches at their September meeting.
- C. Storm Shelter sign - Jenna said she is going to purchase a Storm Shelter sign to be placed near the bathrooms.

Angie Becker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. and it was seconded by Jean Steinman.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 8:00 p.m.

---

Angie Becker, President

---

Gwen Fischer, Secretary