

Woodstock Public Library Board of Trustees meeting, August 14, 2025

The meeting was orderly and drama-free. I was the only member of the public present. All board members were present (one was late).

The meeting was run by Robert Laurie, Board Chair. He followed the published agenda (attached).

Board Comment: It was suggested that the library draw up a list of needed items, complete with their estimated cost, and make it available to library patrons and particularly library donors. The idea is that a donor might say, "I'll be happy to fund the remodeling of the children's library. \$50,000? No problem."

It was also suggested that a time limit be placed on individual public comment at board meetings. The general sense was that it would be included as a agenda item next month.

Communications: Nick Weber (Library Director) reported nothing of note.

Library Expenditures: Expenditures were somewhat high this month because the library must renew its magazine subscriptions all at once, twice a year, and because its insurance premiums were due.

Librarian's Report: Summer Reading Program coming to an end; participation among both children and adults (tallied separately) were both higher than last year.

New Business: Summer Reading Program review

Unfinished Business:

Prairie Roots (landscaping): All the old plants have been removed; the ground is currently being prepared to receive new plants starting next week.

Electricity is to be installed in the parking lot to permit the installation of remote cameras, possibly public Wi-Fi. Project has not yet begun.

Building Update: Pneumatic system (= HVAC) repairs and upgrades under way. Vendor has been somewhat sluggish, but Nick Weber thinks they're about to get started. First steps on A/V upgrade have been taken. Steps taken to fix bubbles in 25-year-old carpet (failure of underlying adhesive).

Staffing Update: Two mid-level librarians resigned this month; one was persuaded to remain and take over the job of the other one. So, one new vacancy.

City Update: Some discussion of Rec Center renovations, Hearthstone closing (this fall).

FoWL (Friends of Woodstock Library). Plant sale September 6.

There was some unstructured discussion of board meeting security, in the context of the anticipated presence next month of a man banned from the library for unruly and discourteous behavior. There was some agreement that a uniformed Woodstock police officer should be present next month.

