

## **PERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **February 8, 2024 Minutes**

The Perry Public Library Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. Note: This meeting was held in-person at the Perry Public Library.

Board members Kendall Rathje, Margaret Ruggle, Rosa Gonzalez, Mark Miller, and Heather Karolus were present. Friends' of the Library President Kathy Miller, Friends' of the Library Vice President Becky Reuter, and Library Director Misty VonBehren were also present.

Library Board President Mark Miller called the meeting to order.

Agenda – Heather Karolus moved to approve the agenda with Kendall Rathje seconding the motion. MCU.

Minutes – Kendal Rathje moved to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2023 meeting and Margaret Ruggle seconded the motion. MCU.

Financial Statements – Gift Fund receipts and payments were presented with receipts totaling \$5007.60 and checks #6544 - #6553, totaling \$1965.44. The City of Perry Library Fund Status Report and the December and January City of Perry Library Claims Report were reviewed. Heather Karolus moved to approve the financial reports with Margaret Ruggle seconding the motion. MCU.

#### Unfinished Business:

- a. FY25 Capitals Budget – Director Misty VonBehren presented the FY25 Capital Requests for review and approval to submit to City Hall for review. Kendal Rathje moved to approve FY25 Capital Requests with Margaret Ruggle seconding the motion. MCU.
  - Priority Ranking 1 - Library Collections: Library Physical and Digital Materials Acquisition **\$40,000**.
  - Priority Ranking 2 – Technology Updates: Replacement of computers, Network Attached Storage unit, and Server replacement **\$12,000**.
  - Priority Ranking 3 – General Building Repair and Maintenance: **\$20,000**.
  - Priority Ranking 4 – Outreach Vehicle: **\$41,995**.
- b. FY25 General Budget – Director Misty VonBehren informed the board that due to the recent tragedy; the budget process has been delayed. She will present the FY25 General Budget during the March 2024 board meeting for board review.

## Board Education:

- a. Director VonBehren provided to the board copies of the proposed legislation that was recently introduced at the State House relating to public libraries and Section 392.5, Code 2024. Library Legislation SSB 3131 and HSB 678 were the two proposed legislation bills introduced.

## Librarian's Report:

Libraries should always evaluate the communities that they serve and attempt to provide needed services that would benefit the community. After the January 4, 2024 tragedy our library did just that. There was a need for a location that could serve as a space for counselors, therapists, therapy animals, and other organizations. For two days following the tragedy, the library was used by these entities to help the people of the community begin to heal and to educate on the available services moving forward. The following week, there were counselors and therapists from Heart of Iowa Community Services available from 10am-3pm. In addition, with the closure of the schools there was a community need for childcare. A meeting was held Sunday following the incident to develop a plan. It was decided that the McCreary Center's Child Watch program could be expanded during this time and implemented a schedule for parents to utilize the service Monday-Friday from 6am-6pm. This program was facilitated with the help of city staff (McCreary and Library), PACES, Perry Child Development, Acorns and Oaks, current and retired teachers, Iowa PBS, and area businesses. The library staff were able to provide hands assistance with structured activities for the children.

Our goal is to continue to evaluate the needs of the community and be able to provide resources during the aftermath of this tragedy. Many community partners are involved in this ongoing discussion.

We transitioned our meeting room reservation system to WhoFi Meeting Rooms. This software is offered as a benefit to libraries at no cost. We will save \$775.00 annually by using the WhoFi software instead of paying an annual subscription to Plymouth Rocket. Staff have been trained in the new WhoFi software.

It was discovered that we could reduce our mobile hotspot costs by choosing a provider through TechSoup. TechSoup partners with businesses to offer non-profit entities reduced pricing on technology hardware and software. The library will be transitioning from US Cellular to T-Mobile. This will reduce the amount paid annually from an estimated \$3600 to only \$1200 with an additional 4 mobile hotspot units. The library will now have 10 available for checkout.

The budgeting process has been delayed because of recent events. I will be reviewing the expenditures from the previous years and formulating a budget to bring to the board for approval in March.

## **Programming and Events:**

**January Programs Cancelled or Postponed** – Many of the programs scheduled in January were either postponed or cancelled to maximize the use of library and Carnegie staff and provide support in needed areas.

## **February Programming and Events:**

### **Get Yeti to Read! Children's Winter Library Program – December 1 – February 29**

The theme for this year's Children's Winter Reading Program is Get Yeti to Read! The fluffy, white snow monster is everywhere at the Perry Public Library, but can we get it to read? That's your child's job! Come into the library and pick up log sheets that look like game boards to track your child's reading progress throughout the winter and try to catch that sneaky yeti and get it to read! Each time you turn in a log sheet, you get a small prize, another log sheet, and an entry for one of several yeti-themed grand prizes! The program is for babies through children in fifth grade. There will also be one winter-themed family program held each month this winter. More details will be available when you register for the winter reading program. Registration begins December 1, online and in-person.

### **Get Yeti to Read! Teen Winter Library Program – December 1 – February 29**

The theme for this year's Teen Winter Reading Program is Get Yeti to Read! The white snow monster is hiding at the Perry Public Library and it's your job to coax it out. Turn in a book review for each book you read this winter. For every five book reviews you turn in, you will get a free book, more blank book reviews, and an entry for one of several yeti-themed grand prizes! The program is for youth in middle and high school. More details will be available when you register for the winter reading program. Registration begins December 1, online and in-person.

### **February Grab and Go Adult Craft – Free DIY Secret Message Valentine Kit**

Create secret messages of love and friendship for the special people in your life with our free Secret Message Valentine Kit! Adult patrons can bring home one Free DIY Secret Valentine Kit from the Perry Public Library in February. This craft kit includes materials and instructions for making two secret valentines. This February Craft is free, courtesy of the Perry Public Library, and available while supplies last. For questions, visit [www.perry.lib.ia.us](http://www.perry.lib.ia.us) or call 515-465-3569.

### **Adult Winter Library Program: Get Yeti to Read! – December 1 – February 29**

Join our Adult Winter Library Program and get rewarded for cozying up with a hot beverage and a good book this winter! Participating is simple: Register in person or online at [www.perry.lib.ia.us](http://www.perry.lib.ia.us), then begin reading. Each book you read gets you one entry into our *weekly* gift card and book light drawings, plus one entry into our grand prize drawing of a Kindle Fire and a Perry Public Library Swag Bag! You can also complete our Color-Coded Reading Challenge to get five extra entries into the Grand Prize Drawing. Register online or in person today! For more information, come to the library, visit [www.perry.lib.ia.us](http://www.perry.lib.ia.us), or call 515-465-3569.

### **Hometown Heritage at the Carnegie Library Museum Presents: Bicycle History – February 1 to February 26**

Take a walk through the history of the bicycle; from the first patented invention to today's modern version. This free exhibit will include bikes, pictures, documents, memorabilia, and a timeline for you to follow, plus a short history of the bicycle helmet. Lastly, a Perry bike exhibit

would not be complete without a history of the famous BRR ride. Don't miss our tour through the last 46 years of Perry's bicycle history this February! The Winter Carnegie Library hours are as follows: Sunday and Monday – Closed. Tuesday and Wednesday – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Thursday – 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. Friday and Saturday – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. For questions, call 515-465-7713 or visit [www.perry.lib.ia.us](http://www.perry.lib.ia.us).

### **Salvation Army Mobile Services Center – February 5 (Weather Permitting)**

The Salvation Army Mobile Services Center will come to the Perry Public Library on Monday, February 5 (weather permitting) from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, with a break for lunch. This free service, provided by the Salvation Army, will be located in the library's south parking lot. The Salvation Army helps with rent, utilities, gas, personal care items, food, and other information. For more specific information about services offered, contact the Salvation Army directly at 515-282-3599. This is a free service, and no registration is required.

### **Fresh Conversations with Aging Resources of Central Iowa: Healthy Fats and Special Guest from HeartCorps – February 7**

Fresh Conversations is a free nutrition and physical education program for ages 60+. The program offers practical tips and sensible solutions to everyday problems that get in the way of doing what most people want to do: eat well and live well! Fresh Conversations is also an opportunity to connect with other adults for a friendly group discussion. We will meet to discuss healthy fats, plus try a tasty recipe on Wednesday, February 7, from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm in the Perry Public Library Community Room. We will also have a special guest after our meeting: Ryann from HeartCorps will discuss blood pressure monitoring and upcoming partnerships with the library around heart health. This is a monthly, free event held the first Wednesday of each month for adults ages 60+ and no registration is required. For more information, call the library at 515-465-3569 or visit [www.perry.lib.ia.us](http://www.perry.lib.ia.us).

### **We Have Issues (YA Book Club for Everyone): *Take Me with You When You Go* by David Levithan and Jennifer Nivan – February 5**

We Have Issues: A YA Book Club for Everyone is a fun, laid-back book club where we enjoy reading and discussing the often-dramatic world of YA literature. We love exploring timely issues and you don't have to be a teen/young adult to come. The We Have Issues Book Club meets the first Monday of each month from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the Library Board Room. For February's book, participants will discuss "a story of hope, siblinghood, and finding your home in the people who matter most." Join discussion leader Jessica on February 5 to discuss this highly recommended book. Interested adults and teens may join the group for free at any time and no registration is required. Books may be purchased in advance for a small fee from the library or borrowed with your Perry Public Library card. For more information, go to [www.perry.lib.ia.us](http://www.perry.lib.ia.us), visit the library, or call 515-465-3569.

### **Evening Family Storytime: Bring Your Child to the Library Month – February 5, 12, 26**

Families are invited to join us for our new evening storytime on Monday evenings from 6:30 pm to 7:15 pm. These storytimes are geared toward youth ages 2-5 but all ages are invited. Wear your pajamas and bring your favorite stuffed animal! Miss Laura will read fun books, sing silly songs with scarves, and offer a simple craft. This is a great way to bond with your child and get in some literacy activities if you are unable to attend our daytime storytimes. Evening Family Storytime will meet on February 5, 12, and 26, but the library will be closed for President's Day on February 19. Families are welcome to attend this event for free and no registration is

required. For more information, go to [www.perry.lib.ia.us](http://www.perry.lib.ia.us), visit the library, or call 515-465-3569.

**Wee Wonders Storytime Thursday (Birth to 24 Months): Alphabet Soup – February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

Our Wee Wonders program for babies birth to 24 months will meet from 10:30 am to 11:15 am on Thursdays. Wee Wonders is an early literacy lapsit program for babies from birth through 24 months. We sing songs and rhymes, read simple books, do fingerplays, bounces, and incorporate motor skills with shakers and scarves. There is a period of social play at the end of each program. Each participating baby also gets a free board book every time they come to the program. The group meets on February 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. This is a free program, but registration is required. To register, visit the library, go online at [www.perry.lib.ia.us](http://www.perry.lib.ia.us), call 515-465-3569, or email [lpieper@perry.lib.ia.us](mailto:lpieper@perry.lib.ia.us).

**Toddler Time Tuesday Storytime (2 and 3-Year-Olds): Alphabet Soup – February 6, 13, 20, 27**

There's nothing like a warm bowl of soup on a cold day! And this soup is full of letters! Our storytime theme for February is Alphabet Soup and we will focus on letter recognition and pronunciation through fun books, activities, and songs. This storytime is geared toward toddlers ages 2 to 3. Toddler Time meets on Tuesdays from 10:30 am to 11:15 am. The group meets on February 6, 13, 20, and 27. This is a free program, but registration is required. To register, visit the library, go online at [www.perry.lib.ia.us](http://www.perry.lib.ia.us), call 515-465-3569, or email [lpieper@perry.lib.ia.us](mailto:lpieper@perry.lib.ia.us).

**Fun with Fours and Fives Wednesday Storytime (4 and 5-Year-Olds): Alphabet Soup – February 7, 14, 21, 28**

There's nothing like a warm bowl of soup on a cold day! And this soup is full of letters! Our storytime theme for February is Alphabet Soup and we will focus on letter recognition and pronunciation through fun books, activities, and songs. This storytime is for preschool-age children, ages 4 and 5. Fun with Fours and Fives meets on Wednesdays from 10:30 am to 11:15 am. The group meets on February 7, 14, 21, and 28. This is a free program, but registration is required. To register, visit the library, go online at [www.perry.lib.ia.us](http://www.perry.lib.ia.us), call 515-465-3569, or email [lpieper@perry.lib.ia.us](mailto:lpieper@perry.lib.ia.us).

**Chess Club at the Library – February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

Local Chess Instructor David Oliveira is partnering with the Perry Public Library to teach, mentor, and play chess with players of all ages and experience levels. Whether you are new to chess or looking for a challenging game, mark your Thursday evenings in February for chess instruction and walk-in play at the Library. Students, grades K-12, will meet from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm, in the library Board Room. Chess players of all ages are then welcome to meet from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, also in the Board Room, for instruction or competition. David Oliveira leads the group meetings and also offers chess instruction by individual appointments as part of the library program. Call the library for more information or to arrange a time at 515-465-3569.

**Yeti Scramble Scavenger Hunt for Children – February 5-11**

As part of Bring Your Child to the Library month and the Get Yeti to Read Winter Program, children ages 5-10 are invited to participate in a Yeti Scramble Scavenger Hunt. To participate, look for images of yetis around the library and write down the letters on the yetis. Unscramble the letters to reveal the answer to a question about our yeti and win a prize! The scavenger hunt will be available during regular library hours on Monday, February 5 through Saturday,

February 11. For more information, visit [www.perry.lib.ia.us](http://www.perry.lib.ia.us), call 515-465.3569, or come to the library.

### **WOW! Wednesdays Robots (K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grades): Iowa Heart Foundation – February 7**

WOW! Wednesdays are early-out STEM-related activity times for elementary students at the Library! Children in Kindergarten through second grade are invited to attend WOW! Wednesdays Robots from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm on the FIRST Wednesday of the month. On February 7, the Robots will have a special guest lead an activity from the Iowa Heart Foundation. This includes interactive activities that introduce how the heart works, how to create a heart-healthy snack, and worksheets that include a coloring page, crossword, and word search all focused on the heart. This is a free activity and no registration is required. For more information, visit [www.perry.lib.ia.us](http://www.perry.lib.ia.us), call 515-465.3569, or visit the library.

### **Hometown Heritage at the Carnegie Library Museum Presents: A Latvian Afternoon Tea – February 12**

Our afternoon tea at the Carnegie Library Museum return in February with a Latvian tea experience. Host Trista is honoring her much-loved exchange student with a traditional Latvian afternoon tea made of rye bread and smoked salmon sandwiches, vegetable tarts, caraway buns, and shortbread cookies. Join us on Monday, February 12, from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm, for a lovely afternoon of tea and friendship. Tickets are \$15 and will be available at the Perry Public Library and the Carnegie Library Museum today. Tickets are limited and available while supplies last. For more information, visit the library, call 515-465-7713, or go to [www.perry.lib.ia.us](http://www.perry.lib.ia.us).

### **WOW! Wednesdays Rockets (3-5<sup>th</sup> Grades): Iowa Heart Foundation – February 14**

WOW! Wednesdays are early-out STEM-related activity times for elementary students at the Library! Children in third through fifth grades are invited to attend WOW! Wednesdays Rockets from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm on the SECOND Wednesday of the month. For February 14, the Rockets will have a special guest lead an activity from the Iowa Heart Foundation. This includes interactive activities that introduce how the heart works, how to create a heart-healthy snack, and worksheets that include a coloring page, crossword, and word search all focused on the heart. This is a free activity and no registration is required. For more information, visit [www.perry.lib.ia.us](http://www.perry.lib.ia.us), call 515-465.3569, or visit the library.

### **Snow Dragon Scavenger Hunt for Tweens & Teens February 12-18**

Teens ages 11-18 are invited to participate in a challenging snow dragon-themed scavenger hunt during the week of February 12 - 18. Use ciphers, cryptograms, Morse Code, and more to solve the riddle of the snow dragon and earn a prize! The scavenger hunt will be available during regular library hours on Monday, February 12 through Saturday, February 18. For more information, visit [www.perry.lib.ia.us](http://www.perry.lib.ia.us), call 515-465.3569, or visit the library.

### **Palentine's Day Party – February 13**

Teens in middle school and high school are invited to come enjoy a day of pampering at the Perry Public Library at our Palentine's Day Party! On Tuesday, February 13, from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm, we will celebrate friendship by making shower bombs and other fun goodies while we paint our nails - feel free to bring your own nail polish and nail kits. There will also be waffles with whipped cream and sprinkles (a nod to the famous Galentine's Day treat)! Registration is required; the deadline to sign up is Monday, February 12. Scan the QR code on any flyer, register online, or call the library at 515-465-3569 or talk with a librarian to sign up.

### **Monthly Book Club: *Tell Me Everything* by Erika Krouse – February 16**

Join our Monthly Book Club in February as we follow private investigator Erika Krouse through her riveting investigation of sexual assault by football players on a college campus. Krouse's book, *Tell Me Everything*, is part memoir and part literary true crime. Join us on Tuesday, February 16, from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm in the Library Community Room to discuss this month's book. Plus, grab a list of our 2024 reads and mark your calendars for the third Tuesday of each month. Everyone interested is invited to join the discussion and participation is free. Books may be purchased in advance for a small fee from the library or borrowed with your Perry Public Library card. For more information, visit [www.perry.lib.us](http://www.perry.lib.us), call 515-465-3569, or come to the library.

### **Calming Crafts: STEM Library Program with ISU Extension and Outreach in Dallas County (K – 5<sup>th</sup>) – February 21**

The next program in the ISU Extension youth STEM series Calming Crafts. Youth will discuss mindfulness and create their own stress balls and calming jars. The Perry Public Library is partnering with ISU Extension and Outreach in Dallas County for an exciting new monthly early-out STEM program that will meet from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm on third Wednesdays. The ISU Extension Library STEM program is for kindergartners through fifth graders and will include a snack, literacy activity, and hands-on STEM experiments. Join us on Wednesday, February 21, for Calming Crafts. Registration is required for this program by February 12. Register online at [www.perry.lib.ia.us](http://www.perry.lib.ia.us), in person, or call the library for more information at 515-465-3569. \*Please note that this is separate from our current WOW Wednesday programming.

### **Tween Zone (3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>): Yeti Fleece Tie Pillow Craft – February 23**

This month's Tween Zone will feature a yeti fleece tie pillow craft. Tween Zone is for youth in 3rd through 6th grades to come hang out, do the monthly craft, color, make their own inventions using our Maker Space Cart, play board games, and play games with our BEAM projector (if space and time permit). Join us on Friday, February 23 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm for our Yeti-themed Tween Zone. This is a free activity and no registration is required. For more information, visit [www.perry.lib.ia.us](http://www.perry.lib.ia.us), call 515-465.3569, or visit the library.

### **Paper Crafting with Kathy: St. Patrick's Day and Easter Cards – February 24**

Prepare for St. Patrick's Day and Easter with our February paper crafting class! Join Kathy for a series of monthly how-to workshops featuring different paper crafting techniques and creative designs for making greeting cards. The craft series will be held one Saturday each month. We will meet on Saturday, February 24 in the Library Community Room from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. The class is free, but space is limited and registration is required. Registration closes on February 14. All materials will be provided, but participants are welcome to bring their own supplies. For more information, visit [www.perry.lib.ia.us](http://www.perry.lib.ia.us), call 515-465-3569, or ask a librarian.

### **Saturday Crafternoons – February 24**

Are you looking for a quiet, community space to craft? Then, we have the perfect Saturday event for you! The Perry Public Library welcomes crafters and do-it-yourselfers to our dedicated makerspace – now following Paper Crafting with Kathy. You bring your ideas and supplies and we'll supply the crafting space. Saturday Crafternoons last from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm in the Library Community Room and offer a free community space to work on projects in a comfortable environment. Plan your next work session for Saturday, February 24, at the library. Tables are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and everyone is invited. No reservations and no charge! For more information, go to [www.perry.lib.ia.us](http://www.perry.lib.ia.us), visit the library, or call 515-465-3569.

**February Craft Club: Special Evening Paper Crafting with Kathy: Stepper Surprise Box – February 26**

Our paper crafting guru, Kathy, will host a special February Craft Club this month. Participants will learn how to make adorable stepper surprise boxes. These unique cards open up to reveal small gift boxes and are sure to delight! We will meet on Monday, February 26 in the Library Community Room from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. The class is free, but space is limited and registration is required. Registration closes on February 19. For more information, visit [www.perry.lib.ia.us](http://www.perry.lib.ia.us), call 515-465-3569, or ask a librarian.

**Bluey Party – February 28**

Wackadoo! Come to Perry Public Library's Bluey Party for all things Bluey, including crafts and games like "Keepy Uppy" and "Magic Asparagus!" We'll celebrate in the Library Community Room on Wednesday, February 28 from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm. No registration is required. For ages 2-8. For more information, visit [www.perry.lib.ia.us](http://www.perry.lib.ia.us), call 515-465.3569, or visit the library.

The next normally scheduled meeting is on Thursday March 14, 2024, at 8 a.m. in the library's Community Room. The public is always welcome.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Misty VonBehren, Library Director