



Library Board Bylaws

Following are the Bylaws of Fairfield Public Library of Fairfield, Iowa. These Bylaws supersede all previous versions.

Regular Meetings

The regular monthly meetings of the Fairfield Public Library Board of Trustees shall be held at the Library at 5:15pm on the third Monday of each month, except in December, when they precede that month's City Council meeting, or when the third Monday is a holiday.

Annual Meeting

The June Annual Meeting serves as the transition point between fiscal years and provides an opportunity to review the accomplishments and challenges of the previous year. During this meeting, officers are elected, authorized signers on accounts are updated, and the Bylaws are reviewed. The Annual Meeting shall be held at the time and location of the regular monthly meeting in June.

Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the President or upon the written request of three (3) members of the Board of Trustees for the transaction of business stated in the call for the meeting.

Quorum

A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of five (5) members.

Parliamentary Guide

Meetings are conducted in general compliance with guidelines summarized in *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in Brief*, pages 187-197.

Public Address

All meetings of the Board are open to members of the public who wish to observe and comment. Non-board members who wish to address the Board should request a place on the agenda not later than one week prior to a board meeting. The request may be directed to the President, Secretary, or the Library Director. The Board will not act upon any complaint or suggestion at the meeting at which the statement is presented.

This will allow the board to more thoroughly consider the statement. They may or may not

discuss the request and they may or may not act upon it at the next board meeting.

Order of Business

The order of business at regular meetings shall be as follows:

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| 1. Call to order | 5. Treasurer's Report | 10. Continued Education |
| 2. Public address | 6. Approval of Bills | 11. Unfinished business |
| 3. Call for Additions to the
Agenda | 7. Communications | 12. New business |
| 4. Approval of Minutes | 8. Report of Director | 13. Adjournment |
| | 9. Reports of Committees | |

MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICERS

Number and Term

The Board of Trustees shall be composed of nine (9) members appointed by the Mayor, with the approval of the City Council, for a period of six (6) years. The ultimate responsibility for all library activities rests with the Board of Trustees. The board shall strive to maintain balanced gender representation among its nine members.

Tenure shall be limited to two (2) successive six (6) year terms, with reappointment permissible following a two-year period of non-service. A trustee appointed to fill out a term of less than three (3) years may then serve two additional full terms. It is the responsibility of the Library Board to nominate and present replacement names to the mayor.

Meeting Attendance

Should a member of the board be unable to attend four (4) meetings in a 12-month period, the potential need for resignation may be discussed with this member by the Board President.

Conflict of Interest

A person or spouse of a person who receives direct or indirect compensation in an amount greater than \$1,500 in a calendar year from the Fairfield Public Library shall not be eligible to serve as a trustee of the Fairfield Public Library.

Officers

Officers of the Board of Trustees shall be elected by simple majority of the board at the regular annual meeting of the Board, and shall be as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Officers shall serve one (1)-year terms, and an officer may succeed himself, provided that a President or Vice-President shall not serve more than three (3) consecutive terms.

President

The President of the Board shall work with the Director to set the monthly agenda, preside at all meetings, appoint all committees, authorize calls for any special meetings, authorize payment of

all accounts payable, and generally perform the duties of the presiding officer.

Vice-President

The Vice-President shall preside in the absence of the President and perform all other duties in case of the President's absence or incapacity. The Vice-President shall work with the Personnel Committee to coordinate the Library Director's Annual Performance Evaluation.

Secretary

The Secretary of the Board shall keep a true and accurate account of all proceedings of the Board meetings.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall authorize all accounts payable. The Library Director as Assistant Treasurer shall sign accounts of the Memorial and Gift Fund.

COMMITTEES

Standing

Three (3) standing committees of three members each shall be appointed for purposes outlined on page 49 of the Iowa Library Trustee's Handbook, 2009 edition: Personnel, Finance, and Building and Grounds. The board shall review the bylaws at the June annual meeting.

Descriptions of Committees

Personnel: The Personnel Committee shall advise the Board of Trustees and Library Director on matters pertaining to personnel administration, staffing, and benefits. The Committee will provide policy advice, as needed, in the areas of employee relations, benefits, training, compensation, recruitment, and retention. The Committee shall review position descriptions, wages, and salary ranges annually, and conduct a performance review of the Library Director. It is the responsibility of the chairman to call committee meetings.

Finance: The Finance Committee shall oversee the financial operations of the Library. The Committee reviews financial procedures and policies annually, makes recommendations to the Board for change as needed, reviews with the Director the assumptions made in the annual budget, and requests information as appropriate.

The Committee shall also represent the Board at meetings with the City as requested by the Director. The Committee shall work with the Building and Grounds Committee to update the capital improvements plan annually. It is the responsibility of the chairman to call committee meetings.

Building and Grounds: The Building and Grounds Committee shall provide overall guidance regarding the library property, including: Maintenance, safety, security, repairs, upgrades, and

future planning. The Committee shall work with the Finance Committee to update the capital improvements plan annually. The Committee, working with the Library Director, will keep the other trustees notified of possible impacts to the annual budget. It is the responsibility of the chairman to call committee meetings.

Special

Special committees for the study and investigation of special problems may be appointed by the President, such committees to serve until completion of the work for which they were appointed.

Books and Articles

All gifts of articles, books, rare items, etc. donated to Fairfield Public Library shall become the property of Fairfield Public Library and shall be used, displayed, or disposed of as the Board deems fitting and proper, according to the library's Gift Agreement.

Monetary Gifts & Grants

All money received as gifts or grants shall be held in the care of the Library Director and will be deposited in the Library's Gift & Memorials account at Iowa State Bank. These funds shall be used only with the approval of the Library Board of Trustees. Gifts in the form of Certificates of Deposit shall be managed by the Library Director with the Director, Board President, Board Treasurer, and the City's representative(s) listed as signers.

Endowments and Legacies

Endowment funds and legacies left in trust of the Board of Trustees shall be invested consistent with Iowa law.

Amendments

Trustees at any regular meeting of the Library Board may make amendments to these Bylaws with a quorum of five members present, providing the subject matter of the amendment was stated in the call for the meeting.

PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL

Library Director

The Library Director shall be a professional librarian, holding a master's degree or equivalent. They shall be considered the executive officer of the Board and shall have sole charge of the administration of the Library under the direction and review of the Board. The Library Director is responsible for:

1. The care of the building and equipment
2. The employment and direction of the staff and the training of same for efficiency of the Library's service to the public

3. The selection of books and materials according to the Library's collection development policy
4. The preparation of a budget for submission to the Finance Committee in time for approval by the Board before the date specified by the City Council, and
5. The operation of the Library under the financial conditions set forth in the annual budget as finally approved by the City Council.
6. The organizational structure of library departments and staff within these departments

The Library Director shall attend all Board meetings except those at which his/her appointment or salary is to be discussed or decided.

During the first quarter of each calendar year, the Library Director shall receive a performance evaluation by the Personnel Committee, who will report results to the full Board.

SERVICE CONTRACTS

Jefferson County

Pursuant to the original contract of March 13, 1963, and Iowa Code 256.69, the Board of Trustees shall enter into an annual agreement with the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors for the amount of money to be supplied from taxation for free library services to rural residents of Jefferson County.

Incorporated Towns

Separate contracts are made with the town councils of outlying incorporated towns in Jefferson County for annual remuneration, entitling residents of said towns to free library service.

PATRONS' RIGHTS TO SERVICES

Use

The rights of an individual to use the Library shall not be denied or abridged because of a person's gender, race, religion, national origin, or social or political views.

Use of Records

All records of Fairfield Public Library which, by themselves or when examined with other public records, would reveal the identity of a library patron checking out or requesting an item from the library, shall be kept confidential unless otherwise ordered by court of competent jurisdiction. The following rules shall govern public access to all other records of the Fairfield Public Library:

1. The Library Director is designated as the official custodian of the Library's public records.

2. The person desiring access to the records shall request access in writing, identifying as accurately as possible the specific records to which access is desired. In addition, the person shall be asked the reason for the request but cannot be denied access if no reason is stated.
3. Access to the records shall be granted during the hours of 9:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday.
4. Access to the records shall be granted only under the supervision of the Library Director or a staff member specifically authorized by the Library Director.
5. Staff time spent in providing and supervising access to the records shall be charged to the person requesting access at the rate of \$10.00 per hour. The minimum charge shall be \$2.00. Law enforcement agency personnel conducting an authorized investigation shall be exempt from charges, except for the use of the copy machine.
6. If there is cause to believe that examination and/or copying of the records would clearly not be in the public interest and would substantially and irreparably injure any person or persons, access to the records may be delayed until a District Court opinion is given.

Rules

After approval by the Board, the Library Director may issue rules regarding standards for patrons' use of the Library and materials, and behavior on Library property or grounds.

Updated by FPL Trustees 6-15-2026