

APPROVED

Cromaine District Library
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday October 16, 2025

Trustees Present: Bill Bolin, Jeannine Gogoleski, Nancy Rosso, Becky Basley, Holly Naylor,
Dawn Smith, Kim Armstrong

Members Absent: None

Staff Present : Sarah Neidert, Darlene Randolph

Public Present : Elizabeth Naylor, Michelle Julian, Diane White, Dawn Collier, Michelle Powell,
Crystal Kuempel, John Kuempel, Kate Mazzara, Kathy Cassar, Amber, Walt Palka, Debbie Polka,
Noreen Weitteys, Dan Lizzio, Elianna C., P. Logan Spena, Len Pietila, April Sieh, Julie

I.	President Bolin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.	
II.	Pledge of Allegiance	Pledge of Allegiance
III.	Roll Call President Bolin took roll call. Present: Jeannine Gogoleski, Bill Bolin, Nancy Rosso, Becky Basley, Holly Naylor, Dawn Smith, Kim Armstrong Absent: None President Bolin addressed the audience on the Rules of Open Meetings, and also advised them on the board meetings now being recorded.	Roll Call
IV.	Approval of Agenda Vice President Gogoleski added Item C1. to the agenda, the policies from September, #2010, 2020, 2030, 2031, 2032, 3020 Vice President Gogoleski moved to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Trustee Naylor. Ayes: All Nayes: None Motion passed	Approval of Agenda

VII.	<p>Discussion/Decision Items</p> <p>A. Review of first-quarter statistics (July-Sept. 2025)</p> <p>The collection numbers in the downloadables show a decrease. This is an error. There were two vendors that we use that were left out on the spreadsheet. A corrected version will be in next month's packet. The percentage of physical items were down due to the result of Baker & Taylor getting them to us.</p> <p>B. Library Closing Calendar (Motion needed)</p> <p>Secretary Rosso asked if the 2026 Closing Calendar reflects the same as last year. Director Neidert replied that it does.</p> <p>The two dates with TBD are for Staff-In-Service dates, but those dates will be the ones scheduled.</p> <p>Trustee Smith wondered if the extra day from Easter Holiday had been a problem. Director Neidert replied that it did not cause a problem.</p> <p>MOTION:</p> <p>Trustee Naylor moved to approve the Library Closing Calendar for 2026 as presented. Seconded by Vice President Gogoleski. A roll call was taken.</p> <p>Ayes: Kim Armstrong, Dawn Smith, Holly Naylor, Becky Basley, Nancy Rosso, Bill Bolin, Jeannine Gogoleski</p> <p>Nayes: None Motion passed.</p> <p>C. Review Policies:</p> <p>#1010 – Cooperation with Libraries & Other Organizations (Community Relations)</p> <p>Vice President Gogoleski moved to approve Policy #1010 as written, reviewed, no changes. Seconded by Treasurer Basley.</p> <p>Ayes: All</p> <p>Nayes: None Motion passed.</p>	<p>1st Qtr. Statistics</p> <p>Library Closing Calendar</p> <p>Review Policies</p>

	<p>#6001 – Fund Balance Policy (Finance) Secretary Rosso moved to approve Policy #6001 as written, reviewed, no changes. Seconded by Trustee Smith.</p> <p>Ayes: All Nayes: None Motion passed.</p> <p>#6002 – Revenue Distribution & Fund Accounting (Finance) Vice President Gogoleski moved to approve Policy #6002 as written, reviewed, no changes. Seconded by Treasurer Basley.</p> <p>Ayes: All Nayes: None Motion passed.</p> <p>#6003 – Fixed Assets Capitalization (Finance) Vice President Gogoleski moved to approve Policy #6003 as written, reviewed, no changes. Seconded by Secretary Rosso.</p> <p>Ayes: All Nayes: None Motion passed.</p> <p>#6004 – Gifts to the Library (Finance) Vice President Gogoleski moved to approve Policy #6004 as written, reviewed, no changes. Seconded by Trustee Smith.</p> <p>Ayes: All Nayes: None Motion passed.</p> <p>C1. Review of policy #2010, 2020,2030, 2031, 3020 from September cancelled meeting. Vice President Gogleski moved to approve policy #2010, 2020, 2030, 2031, and 3020 from cancelled September board meeting as written, reviewed by committee with no changes. Seconded by Trustee Smith.</p> <p>Ayes: All Nayes: None Motion passed</p> <p>D. Discussion of Material Reconsideration Appeal Process</p>	<p>Material Appeal Process</p>
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	<p>Trustee Smith explained the reason for this form. This form was made for the purpose to operationalize the reviewed books that were appealed. She explained the procedures of the appeal. We need to vote on this appeal form.</p> <p>MOTION: Vice President Gogoleski moved to approve the revised “Evaluation of Appeal” form. Seconded by Trustee Naylor. A roll call was taken. Ayes: Kim Armstrong, Dawn Smith, Holly Naylor, Becky Basley, Nancy Rosso, Bill Bolin, Jeannine Gogoleski Nayes: None Motion passed.</p> <p>Trustee Naylor feels that the board should uphold the decisions made by the director. Vice President Gogoleski said we should do our full due diligence and read these books. Trustee Smith values the director’s opinion but feels that if it comes down to just one person making the decision, we should all read these books that have been appealed. She does not feel comfortable without reading them and leaving it up to just one person. Trustee Naylor was surprised by Trustee Gogoleski’s suggestion. At the committee meeting she highly praised and was fully supportive of the director’s decisions. She is concerned that changing her suggestion to the opposite now undermines the committee’s process. Trustee Smith replied that she did not say she would agree with the Director’s decisions at committee. Trustee Smith says she feels it is completely biased with just a few people picking these books and reading them to make the decision. We should all read them. She noted that the items were evaluated by the biased librarians who ordered the books in the first place.</p> <p>President Bolin agreed and said trustees are entitled to change our minds.</p> <p>Director Neidert explained that she has a question about the appeal letter. She asked what exactly the appeal is and how the board will address it by reading all the books. She explained her decision and why. This all stemmed from the February board meeting. The argument then was these books should not be in the library. She needs to know from the board what the goal is from these appeals.</p> <p>Treasurer Basley did not understand the appeal letter. There is a gray area as to what is being appealed. She supports the director, but as a board member she has the obligation to understand what they are appealing. She questioned this form as to what a clear definition is, and what is being appealed. She does like the form.</p>	
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	<p>She needs clarification from the challenger at what specifically is being challenged.</p> <p>Trustee Smith stated that this is not about LGBTQ. People can challenge any book. If a book is challenged, she is going to read it and look at our criteria. She went on to say, “The people choosing these books are completely biased. The fact is, it is not her fault. It is the author and the people choosing and ordering these books”.</p> <p>Vice President Gogoleski has read some of these books cover to cover and “kudos” for all the work and time it took staff and the director they put into this. Trustee Armstrong has read a handful. Some were fine, others needed to be changed.</p> <p>President Bolin told his personal opinions and this is based on his personal experience. He says he is not a racist and he agrees with the form created by the committee.</p> <p>Trustee Smith feels the people looking at the books to order are all “left wing”. “The people in charge were all brought up with left wing views. They have implicitly biased beliefs. The percentage of books are not balanced. Conservative books are not ordered. The goal of a librarian information should not be filtered, it should be balanced.”</p> <p>Trustee Naylor asked her, “Is being non-partisan important to you?” Trustee Smith said, “yes.”</p> <p>Director Neidert believes that there was a miscommunication. She is willing to discuss any item that the board brings for re-consideration. This is the project for the board now. She has completed her work on it. She feels the underlying distrust is still there. She says that this cannot be discussed at every board meeting. There is a lot going on in the library besides this.</p> <p>Vice President Gogoleski says that this is a board issue, and Director Neidert is finished with her portion. The board should contact the challenger to specifically ask what they are to be looking for.</p> <p>In conclusion, the board will set up a structure in reading these challenged books, invite the challenger to committee meetings and make a decision. This will take time.</p> <p>E. Library Legal Representation – Logan Spina, Alliance Defending Freedom (Motion, if needed)</p> <p>Trustee Naylor said that before anything, we need to have a conversation about this and be transparent with the community. We need to follow policy and</p>	<p>Legal Representation</p>
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<p>VIII.</p>	<p>procedure when hiring any vendor. There needs to be recommendations and then be narrowed down to two or three lawyers. This is showing favoritism. We need to come up with certain questions for any candidate. She was never given information about this lawyer from the committee. She said there is nothing to compare or think about.</p> <p>Trustee Smith said there was a list for different law firms. This one had potential and it is ProBono. She continued to say that with all the concerns of the cost of a legal representation, this firm agreed to represent us at no cost.</p> <p>Trustee Naylor replied that the cheapest is not always the best. She does not want to be basing a decision on something that she googled. This is not the way the library operates.</p> <p>Treasurer Basley agreed.</p> <p>Director Neidert indicated that communication needs to improve- President Bolin has not connected with the group as chair and it's made it hard to follow up on things.</p> <p>Vice President Gogoleski's understanding was that a list of firms went to committee and none of the firms were selected.</p> <p>Trustee Basley recommends that this person here tonight can address the board on Call to the Public.</p> <p>Trustee Smith says that we stay with our general lawyer, but choose him for the Material Selection Policy.</p> <p>Trustee Naylor again said this is not our policy procedure. He does not even have a license for Michigan? We need to be consistent with procedure so we do not get sued.</p> <p>Vice President Gogoleski recommends going back to committee with recommendations and criteria of firms and coming up with questions.</p> <p>A five -minute break was requested by Director Neidert.</p> <p>Vice President Gogoleski moved to take a five- minute break at 9:05 pm. Seconded by Trustee Armstrong.</p> <p>Ayes: All Nayes: None Motion passed.</p> <p>Information/Comments from Board</p> <p>Treasurer Basley commented, "Kudos to Liz and Sarah on receiving the \$250,000.00 Grant. This is substantial to benefit the patrons and the entire Village". Liz did a stellar job. That needs to be a focus to this community and really needs to be highlighted.</p>	
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	<p>Trustee Smith recommends the library research all the false hate crime claims in our community.</p> <p>Vice President Gogoleski says we need to address the positive things happening at the library.</p> <p>Treasurer Basley agrees and supports the positive things and sometimes they get drowned out.</p> <p>IX. Call to the Public –</p> <p>Those wishing to address the board are asked to fill out a form – if they want their comments reflected in the official board minutes, they are asked to summarize them here, to be included by the recording secretary using their own words.</p> <p>President Bolin explained the procedures and rules of the “Call to the Public”</p> <p>Michelle Julian spoke Debbie Palka spoke Diane White spoke Amber spoke:</p> <p>When I moved here six years ago, this library was one of the biggest draws. I love its history. Its programs. And the sense of community it brings.</p> <p>I walk here almost every day. I always have something checked out. This is <i>my</i> library — and I’m proud to support it, and our wonderful librarians, with my tax dollars.</p> <p>Public libraries are one of the greatest symbols of democracy. They exist so that every person—no matter their background or belief—has equal access to information and ideas. That commitment to knowledge and open access isn’t just a library value— it’s an <i>American</i> value. It’s what makes libraries special. And it’s what makes them worth protecting.</p> <p>When we start labeling or sequestering books based on personal or religious beliefs, we are stigmatizing, and we step away from that promise. It may seem small—but it opens the door to something much larger: a narrowing of voices, a shrinking of freedom, and a loss of trust in a space meant to serve <i>everyone</i>.</p> <p>If the goal is to promote our own values, the best way to do that is by example—not by suppression.</p>	
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	<p>Because when we choose suppression, we admit that our ideas can't stand on their own merit—that they need silence, not dialogue, to survive.</p> <p>And the moment we decide one group's perspective should outweigh another's—we all lose something.</p> <p>This process has already taken a toll. Our librarians have spent months reviewing over two hundred books, fielding complaints, and managing labeling systems. Additionally, private security has been hired law and we are discussing attorneys. That's time, energy, and taxpayer money that could have gone toward programs and services that benefit everyone.</p> <p>And it's cost us something harder to measure—our reputation. People are hearing about what's happening here, and are questioning whether our town believes in intellectual freedom.</p> <p>This issue shouldn't divide us along political or religious lines. It's about whether we believe in the American principles that make our democracy strong—freedom of thought, access to information, and respect for individual choice.</p> <p>My ask tonight is simple:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let parents guide their own children's reading. • Stop labeling, sticker-coding, and restricting books. • Stop spending time and resources on censorship efforts • Restore trust in Sarah's professionalism <p>This library should not be a platform for one belief system or agenda. It belongs to all of us—every reader, every family, every taxpayer.</p> <p>Let's protect it together— so our library remains a place where everyone feels welcome, where ideas can coexist, and where every story still has a place on the shelf.</p> <p>Noreen Weitteys spoke Dawn Collier spoke Elianna spoke P. Logan Spena spoke Kate Mazzara spoke Len Pietila spoke Kathy Cassir spoke-She has a proposal to protect the rights of <u>all</u> parents, not some parents. It also respects children. Let each family <u>decide for themselves</u> what to read. <u>No need to ban books.</u> If you don't like a book, don't check it out!</p>	
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	<p>April Sieh spoke Julie spoke:</p> <p>I want to remind everyone that per the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) website, their mission is to “Ensure the law respects God’s creative order for marriage, and the family. . . ADF advocates for laws and precedents that promote human flourishing by recognizing and honoring God’s design for marriage between one man and one woman.” And what we know is that this first batch of hundreds of books under attack is almost all LGBTQ+ material. But understand that it does not stop here- they will expand to censor books about race, racism, and honest history- just google it as it's already happening around the country. And we see this here as they have challenged a Crounse book titled ‘Fourteenth amendment and the fight for equality’ which is a look at the amendment's impact on civil rights and liberties in the U.S.</p> <p>This matters a great deal to me as my biracial family are patrons of this library. Despite continuous harassing and questioning by some who think it's acceptable to call into question the level of my husband’s skin melanin I assure you we are indeed a biracial family so I'm not happy that the book ‘Fourteenth amendment and the fight for equality’ is included in the manufactured hysteria about “sexualization and exploitation of children” The challenger feels so sure that the book ‘Fourteenth amendment and the fight for equality’ needs to be removed from this library that it is now being appealed to the board for reconsideration of <i>removal</i>.</p> <p>According to their website, ADF is the world’s largest legal organization committed to protecting religious freedom, parental rights, and God’s design for marriage and family. They have been involved in legal and political work such as writing legislation that led to the overturning of Roe v. Wade, the stripping of LGBTQ+ rights and advocating for religious activity in public schools.</p> <p>Why is this powerful worldwide legal entity being hastily pushed into our small community? The president of this board, Bill Bolin, has built a national profile as a crusader against the civil liberties of marginalized groups, so it makes sense to me that ADF would capitalize on his public persona to push their own legal agenda through the courts. Bolin's incompetence as a public servant is on regular display: related attempts to improperly conduct secret meetings, speaking out of turn, ill versed in</p>	
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	<p>the rules of Robert's Rules of Order/the Open Meetings Act, and overt references to civil court action against the public prior to public commentary in a clear attempt to chill their speech.</p> <p>I just hope that ADF realizes the potential risk they are taking by working with such an unqualified individual. I wonder if they think I would have a case against you Bill, an elected official who thinks it's ok to publicly call for their patron to be maliciously doxxed like you did to me. Eventually, such behavior can have legal consequences.</p> <p>Jeannine Gogoleski spoke</p>									
X.	<p>Upcoming Meeting Dates/Agenda Items for Next Meeting</p> <table><tr><td>Nov. 06</td><td>Personnel Committee, in person 6:00 pm</td></tr><tr><td>Nov. 12</td><td>Community Relations Committee 12 noon</td></tr><tr><td>Nov. 11</td><td>Finance Committee</td></tr><tr><td>Nov. 20</td><td>Board of Trustees, 7:00 pm</td></tr></table> <p>TBA Ad-Hoc/Landscaping</p> <p>Agenda Items for Next Meeting:</p> <p>Distribution of Library Director evaluation form</p> <p>Review policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">#8012 – Board Continuing Education (Personnel)#8013 – Response to Correspondence (Personnel)#8014 – Board Use of the Library and its Resources (Personnel) <p>Auditor report</p> <p>Back to committee items discussed today</p>	Nov. 06	Personnel Committee, in person 6:00 pm	Nov. 12	Community Relations Committee 12 noon	Nov. 11	Finance Committee	Nov. 20	Board of Trustees, 7:00 pm	
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