

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Baright Public Library
Dated March 19, 2026 Baright Public Library

Attendees: Melanie Bloom (Trustee), Sharon Medina (Trustee), Jim O'Donnell (Trustee), Edie Vaughan (Trustee), Emily McIllece (Assistant Director), absent (Trustee) Angela Ritchey Amanda Pena (Director)

- 1) **Call to order.** Meeting called to order by Melanie Bloom at 6:34 pm.
- 2) **Acknowledgment of the Open Meeting Law.** “This meeting is subject to the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. A copy of the Open Meeting Act is available on the wall in the meeting room. Read by Melanie Bloom.
- 3) **Agenda Approval.** Edie Vaughan made a motion to approve the November agenda, seconded by Jim O'Donnell. Motion carried with the following trustees voting aye: Melanie Bloom, Jim O'Donnell, Sharon Medina, and Edie Vaughan.
 - No December meeting.
 - Sharon Medina made a motion to approve the January agenda, seconded by Jim O'Donnell. Motion carried with the following trustees voting aye: Melanie Bloom, Jim O'Donnell, Sharon Medina, and Edie Vaughan.
 - No February meeting due to inclement weather.
 - Edie Vaughan made a motion to approve the March agenda, seconded by Jim O'Donnell. Motion carried with the following trustees voting aye: Melanie Bloom, Jim O'Donnell, Sharon Medina, and Edie Vaughan.
- 4) **Approve minutes.** A Motion to approve the November 2025 and January 2026 minutes was made and approved.
- 5) **Financial Report.** The board reviewed the financial report from February, 2026. There were no unusual expenses.
- 6) **Statistical Report.** The board reviewed and discussed the statistical report from February, 2026. Generally speaking, most categories continued to show slight declines. Overall, reference, teen, children's and wi-fi sessions were up, and library visitors were up from the previous month. The categories “Programs” and “Programs Attendance” are lacking data in other years because of an adjustment in tracking.
- 7) **Strategic Plan Report.**
Library Services
 1. *Provide educational and institutional support to the community for those lacking financial stability.*
 - a. We will be partnering with AARP to provide tax aide from February until April 14th, 2026. On average, there were 35 to 40 people per time slot.
 - b. The Omaha Zoo provided the library with 75 tickets for families to visit the zoo this spring. This is up from 30 tickets the previous year.
 2. *Assist an aging population with appropriate services and programs.*
 - a. For February's Brunch and Learn, a presentation from Dr. Victoria Alapo about her native country Nigeria and their culture, with food provided by Lemon Tree. We had at least 20 people attend.

3. *Encourage a strong Ralston economy through promotion of Ralston as a place to live and do business.*

- a. For February's Lunch and Learn, a presentation from I Be Black Girl to talk about their community-led investment portfolio in reshaping philanthropy in Nebraska. Food was provided by Panchito's Bakery. 26 people attended.

8) **Technology:**

The two new AWE stations have been installed in the children's room and we have seen a huge increase in usage from 513 sessions to 1,626. We have purchased two more AWE stations to replace the remaining two older stations.

9) **Staff Development:**

Samantha Caballero resigned from her part-time Bilingual Library Assistant position. We will be hiring for 2 library assistant positions this month.

10) **Building Maintenance Report:**

We received two bids to fix the windows in the library. The bids are going through the bid process and will need to be approved by City Council. The bids will be resubmitted.

11) **Foundation Reports:**

The Foundation did not meet on March 10 and met on March 17th. They approved \$ 200.00 for the Carrol family Christmas Display. The Wiebe Foundation approved a \$5,000 for the Fireworks display. The Mayor requested money for the Hinge Creative District, a 501C3 non-profit, asking for a gift of \$250,000.00

12) **Unfinished Business:**

RFP for Library Windows

13) **New Business:**

None

14) **Public Comments.**

None.

15) **Announcements.**

Our next meeting is April 16.

16) **Adjournment.** Sharon Medina moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Edie Vaughan. All in favor: Melanie Bloom, Sharon Medina, Jim O'Donnell, and Edie Vaughan. Meeting Adjourned at 7:02 pm.