



AGENDA
CITY OF CEDAR FALLS, IOWA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022
5:55 PM AT CITY HALL

The City is providing in-person and electronic options for this meeting. The City encourages in-person attendees to follow the latest CDC guidelines to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

The meeting will be accessible via video conference and the public may access/participate in the meeting in the following ways:

- a) By dialing the phone number +13126266799 or +19292056099 or +12532158782 or +13017158592 or +13462487799 or +16699006833 and when prompted, enter the meeting ID (access code) 962 7287 1738.
- b) iPhone one-tap: +13126266799,,96272871738# or +19292056099,,96272871738#
- c) Join via smartphone or computer using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/96272871738>.
- d) View the live stream on Channel 15 YouTube using this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCzeig5nIS-dIEYisqah1uQ> (view only).
- e) Watch on Cedar Falls Cable Channel 15 (view only).

To request to speak when allowed on the agenda, participants must click “Raise Hand” if connected by smartphone or computer, or press *9 if connected by telephone. All participants will be muted by the presiding officer when not actually speaking.

Call to Order by the Mayor

1. Main Street Reconstruction – 6th Street.
(25 Minutes, Foth Senior Client Manager Aaron Moniza, PE)
2. Annual Report of Cedar Falls Public Library.
(25 Minutes, Library Director Kelly Stern)
3. Library Board of Trustees Interview – Joan Bessman Taylor.
(5 Minutes)

Main Street Reconstruction



Update on 6th St Intersection
City Council Committee of the
Whole

Our discussion topics for today

Item 1.

- ◆ Follow up on 11/15/21 Committee of the Whole Meeting
 - Design alternative at 6th Street (RAB vs Signal)

At our last meeting.....

Item 1.

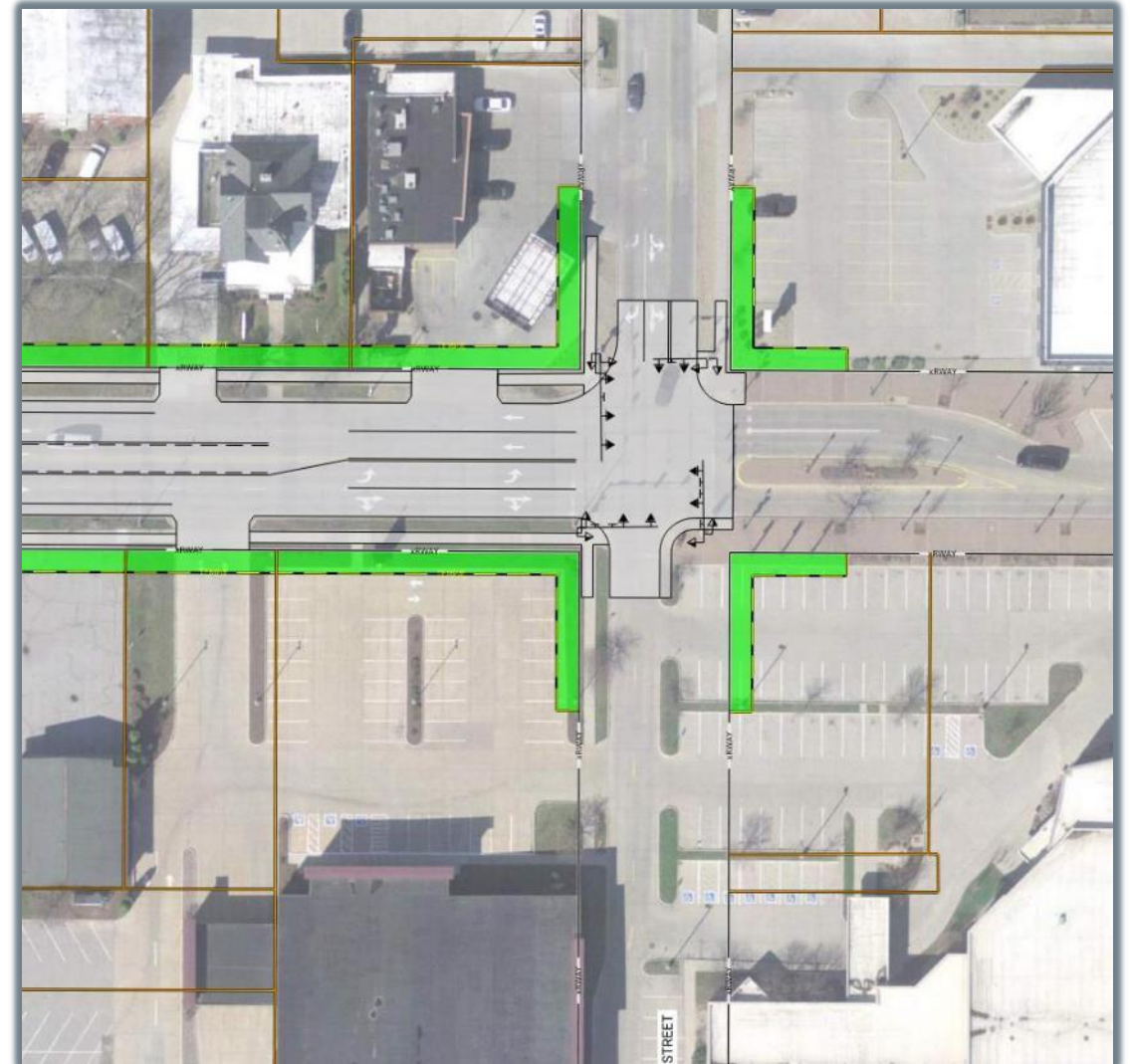
- ◆ Asked to look at design refinements that reduced the impacts to the parking stalls at the library

Traffic Signal – 6th Street

- ◆ New traffic signal
- ◆ No right-of-way needed

**Estimated construction cost
\$362,100**

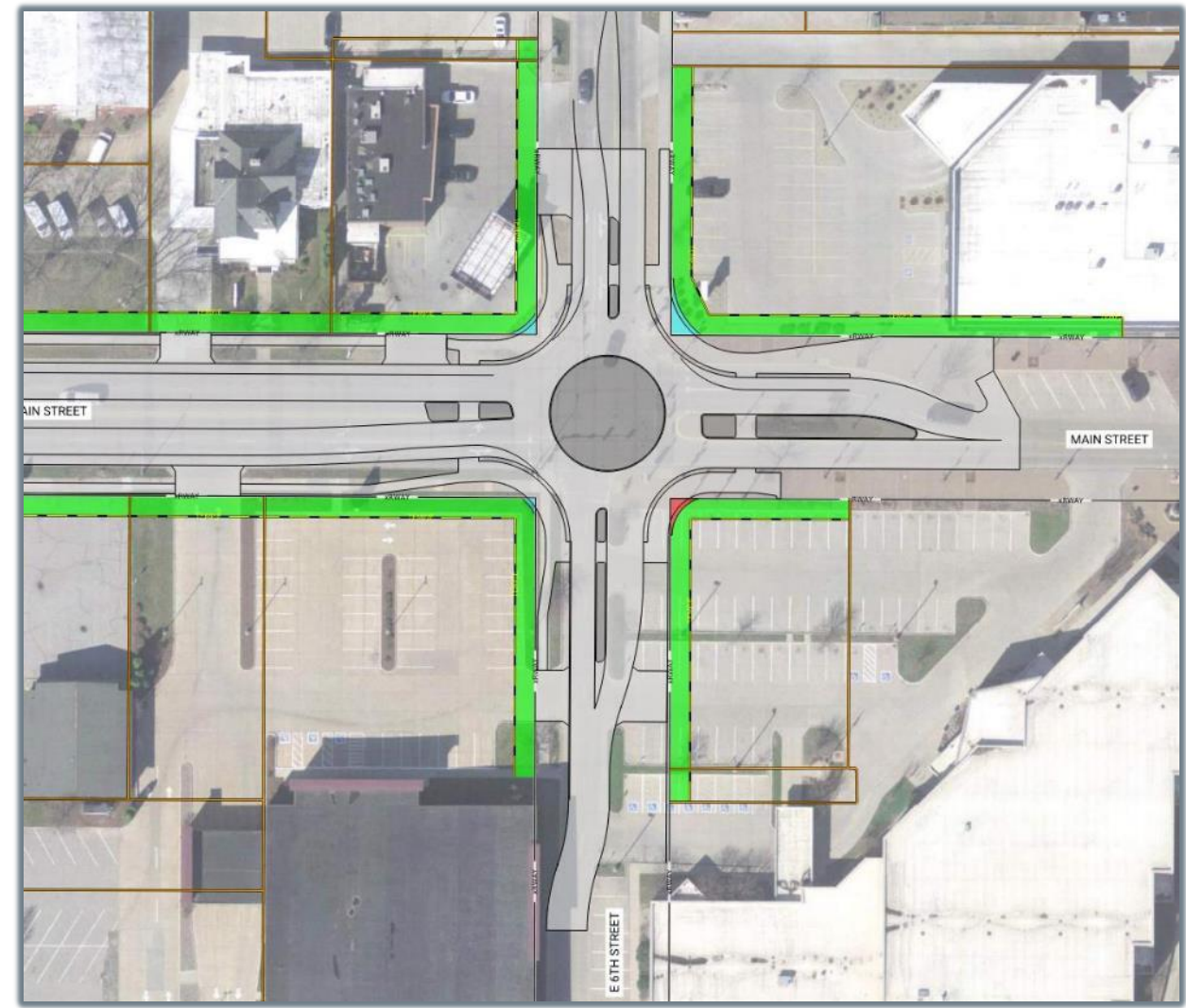
Note: Construction costs include only grading, pavement, sidewalks, signals, lighting



Roundabout at 6th Street Intersection (11/15/21)

- ◆ Improved safety
- ◆ Better traffic operations
- ◆ Right of way needed (231 SF)
- ◆ Fully traversable center median
- ◆ Loss of Library parking stalls
 - Estimate 10-13 stalls lost
 - Total existing stalls: 61

Estimated construction cost
\$409,800

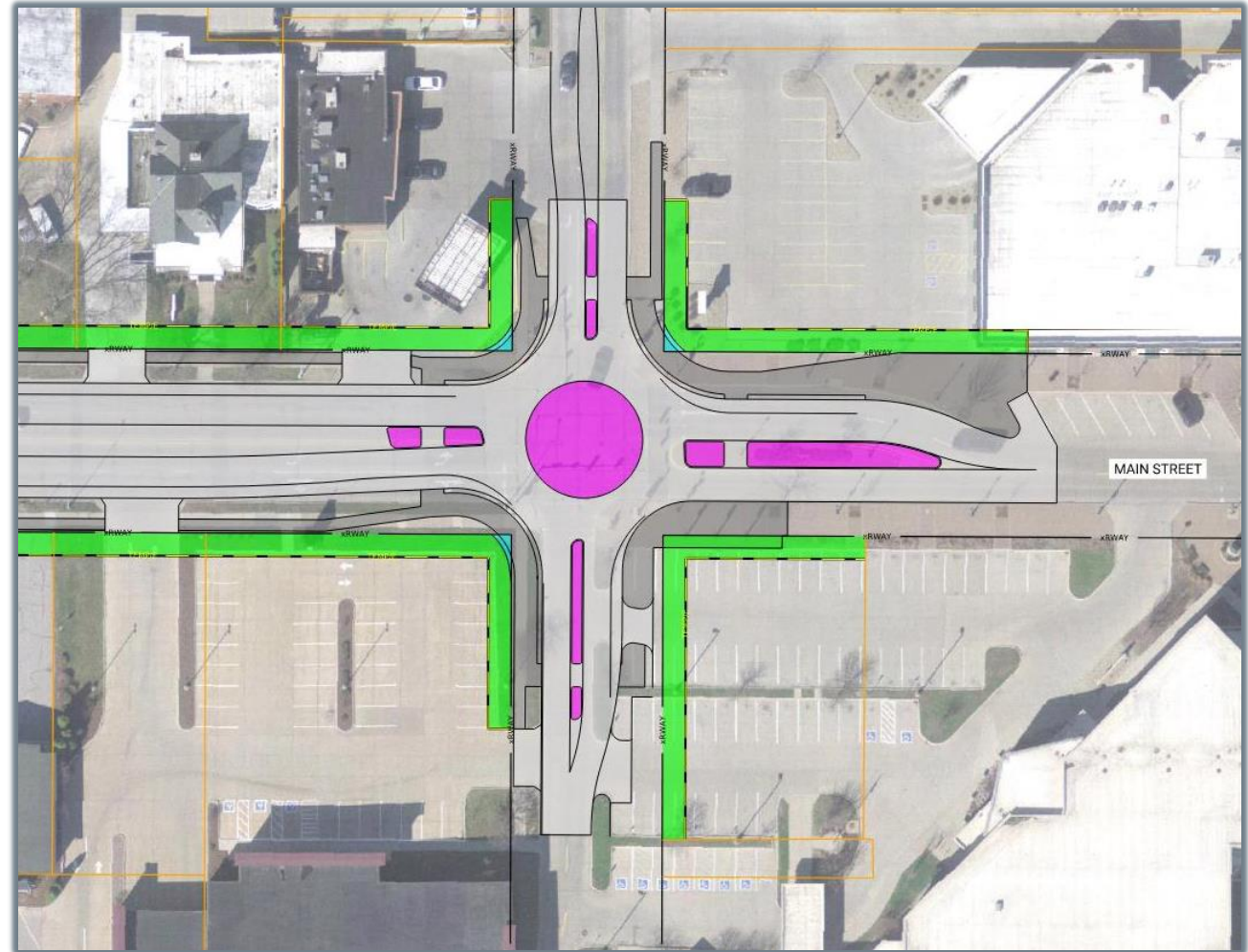


Note: Construction costs include only grading, pavement, sidewalks, signals, lighting

Roundabout at 6th Street Intersection (1/18/22)

- ◆ Improved safety
- ◆ Better traffic operations
- ◆ Right of way needed (214 SF)
- ◆ Fully traversable center median
- ◆ Loss of Library parking stalls
 - 5 stalls lost
 - Total existing stalls: 61

Estimated construction cost
\$383,700



Note: Construction costs include only grading, pavement, sidewalks, signals, lighting



◆ Roundabout

- Improved safety
 - Vehicles and pedestrians
- Better Traffic Operations
- \$2.9M user cost savings
- ROW needed: 214 sf
- Loss of 5 parking stalls
- Cost: \$384k

◆ Traffic signal

- ROW needed: none
- No loss of parking stalls
- Cost: \$362k

- ◆ Design Contract – July 2021, Design work has begun
- ◆ December 20, 2021 - Set public hearing to undertake a public improvement project and to authorize acquisition of private property
- ◆ January 18, 2022 - Public hearing on right-of-way
- ◆ Right-of-Way Acquisition
 - 8-12 months
- ◆ Bid Letting – December 2022
- ◆ Construction Begins – Spring 2023
 - 3 Year Construction Schedule

Moving Forward

- ◆ Motion; to proceed into final design of a traffic signal at 6th Street
- ◆ Motion; to proceed into final design of a roundabout at 6th Street



CEDAR FALLS PUBLIC
LIBRARY

FY21 ANNUAL REPORT

CULTIVATING ENDURING PATHWAYS
TO EXPERIENCES THAT INSPIRE,
ENRICH, AND CAPTIVATE THE
IMAGINATION



Director's Message



It is with great pride that I present to you our FY21 Annual Report of the Cedar Falls Public Library. It has been nearly two years since the pandemic changed life as we knew it, and in spite of the ongoing challenges presented, library staff and volunteers rose to the challenge, finding innovative ways to meet the needs of our community, providing access to information and ideas, technology, educational experiences, and services. Some of the changes we made to serve you safely continue, such as our curbside service and virtual program offerings, while others are gradually moving back towards the way they were pre-pandemic—we are offering more in-person programs again, and projects that were postponed or delayed because of the pandemic are resuming.

Our accomplishments would not have been possible without the support of the Library Board of Trustees, our Friends of the Library, our amazing and dedicated library staff, and the many library patrons who have provided encouragement and kind words just when we needed them, some of which are included in this report.

Libraries are places where we can discover and pursue what we are passionate about, and we are here to help you along the way.

Kelly Stern, Library Director



FY22 Library Board of Trustees

MICHAEL SULENTIC, PRESIDENT

MOLLY CORMANEY, VICE PRESIDENT

CYNTHIA SNELL, SECRETARY

GRETCHEN BEHM

CHARLES BLAIR-BROEKER

KATELYN BROWNE

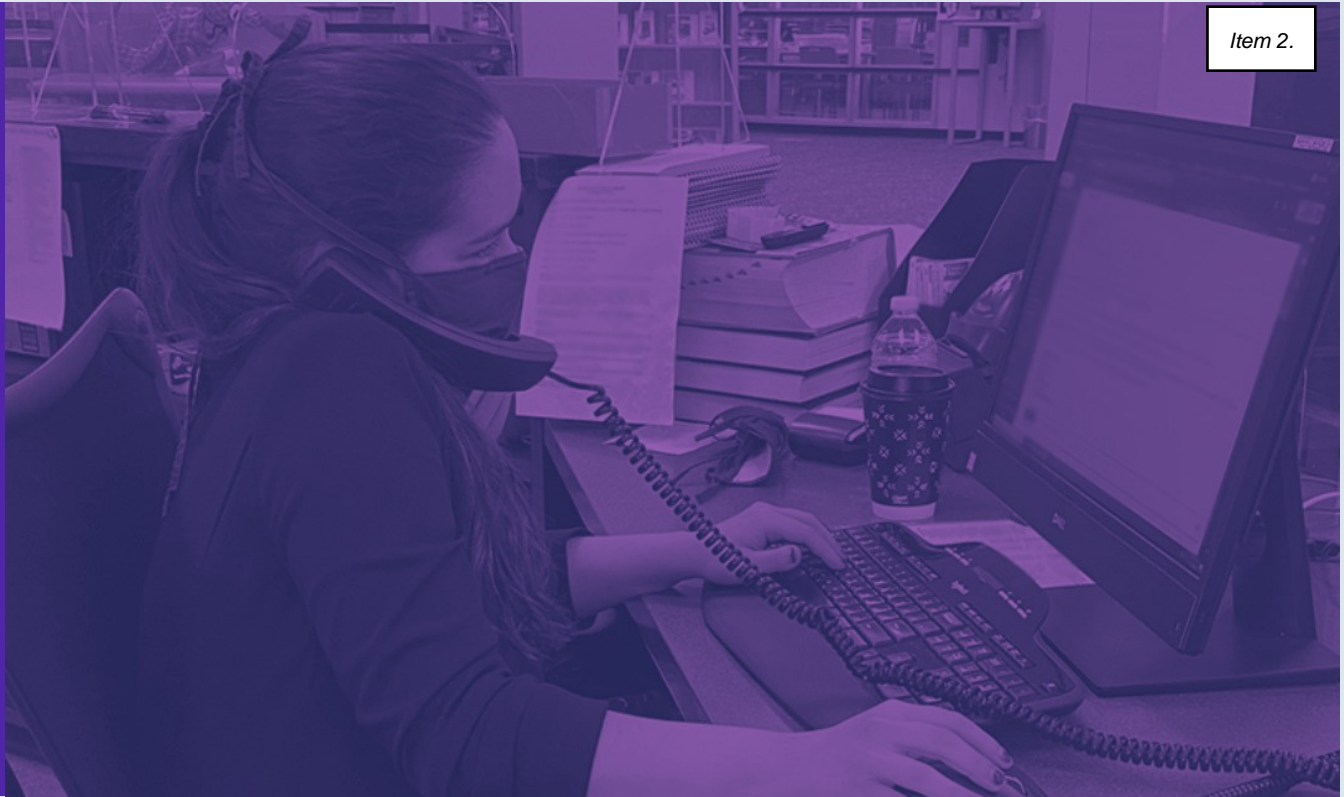
SETH CHADWICK

REG GREEN

JAMES KENYON

Accessibility

Maintaining collections, services, and spaces that are available to all



"Thank you so much.
What a great resource.
Appreciate all you do for
the community."
--Library Patron, about
library databases

Collection Numbers

121,756

TOTAL PHYSICAL
ITEMS

13,198

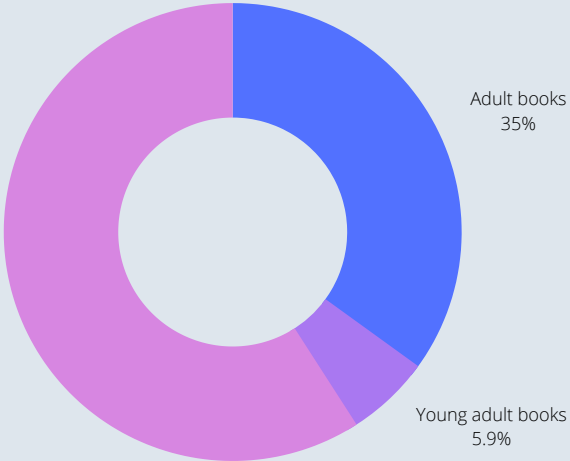
TOTAL
DOWNLOADABLE
ITEMS

142,425

TOTAL PHYSICAL
AND DOWNLOADABLE
ITEMS

Circulation FY21

Item 2.



61,351

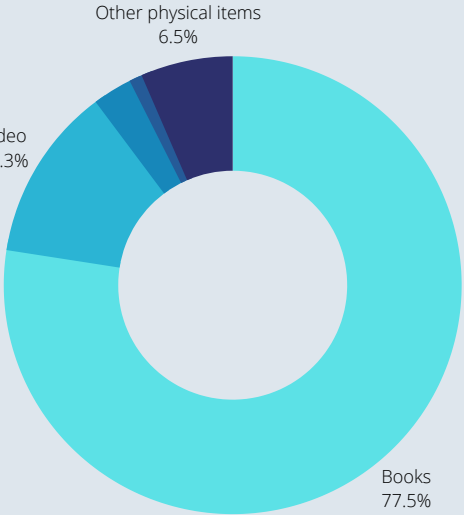
ADULT BOOKS

10,416

YOUNG ADULT BOOKS

103,711

CHILDREN'S BOOKS



175,478

BOOKS

28,403

VIDEO RECORDINGS

6,422

AUDIO RECORDINGS

2,113

PERIODICALS

15,020

OTHER PHYSICAL ITEMS

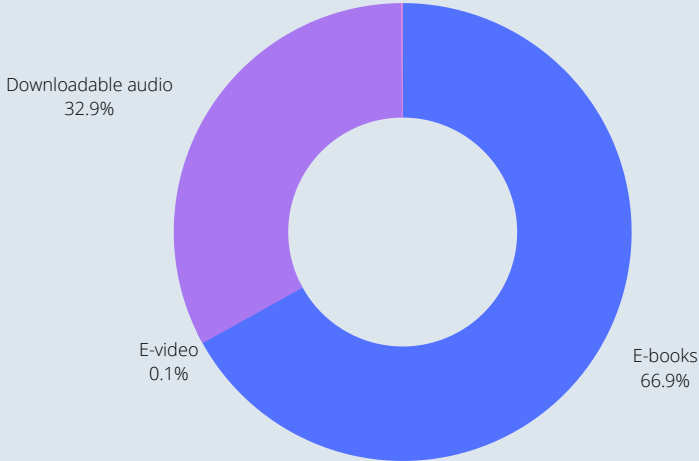
227,436

TOTAL PHYSICAL CIRCULATION



Circulation FY21

Item 2.



40,134

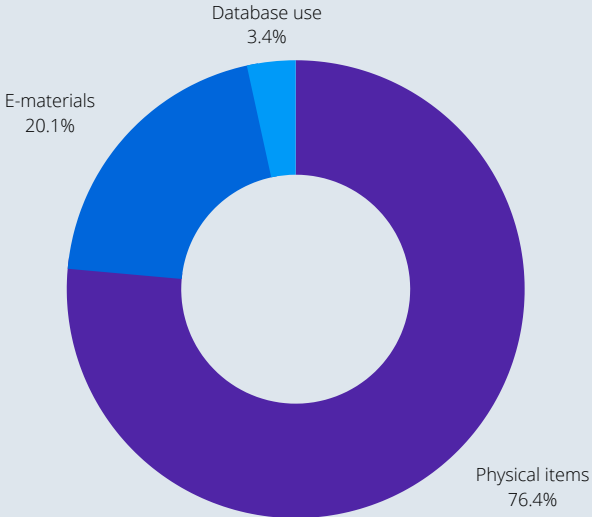
E-BOOKS

75

DOWNLOADABLE
VIDEO

19,758

DOWNLOADABLE
AUDIO



59,967

TOTAL E-MATERIALS
CIRCULATION

227,436

TOTAL PHYSICAL
CIRCULATION

10,202

DATABASE USE

287,403

TOTAL CIRCULATION
OF PHYSICAL AND
DOWNLOADABLE
MATERIALS

38,878

TOTAL NUMBER OF
LIBRARY
CARDHOLDERS

Community

Building relationships to serve local needs and interests

Item 2.



The Cedar Falls Public Library has a rich history of community partnerships for programs and services to benefit residents of the Cedar Valley. During FY21, we worked with the University of Northern Iowa's Fortepan Iowa Project, MercyOne, UnityPoint Health, the Cedar Valley Arboretum, Hearst Center for the Arts, Cedar Falls Historical Society, Cedar Falls Schools, Iowa Workforce Development, the National Weather Service, NASA, and the National Library of Medicine, among others. New partnerships form each year as community needs emerge for which the library is a logical partner.

Diversity & Inclusion

Respecting difference and welcoming all



In FY21, the librarians who select materials for the library's collections completed a course from *Library Journal* about auditing library collections for diversity and inclusion. Following the course, they completed an audit and inventory of the library's collections, which informs their selections for enhancing the collections, an ongoing process. As a result, CFPL's collections provide broader representation of BIPOC, immigrants and refugees, LGBTQ+, persons with disabilities, deafness, and neurodivergence, and diverse family structures. The youth department now has some Braille items, and the youth librarian is working with various agencies to make the library's StoryWalk® accessible for the blind.

30%

OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS ARE PUBLISHED BY OR ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR

26%

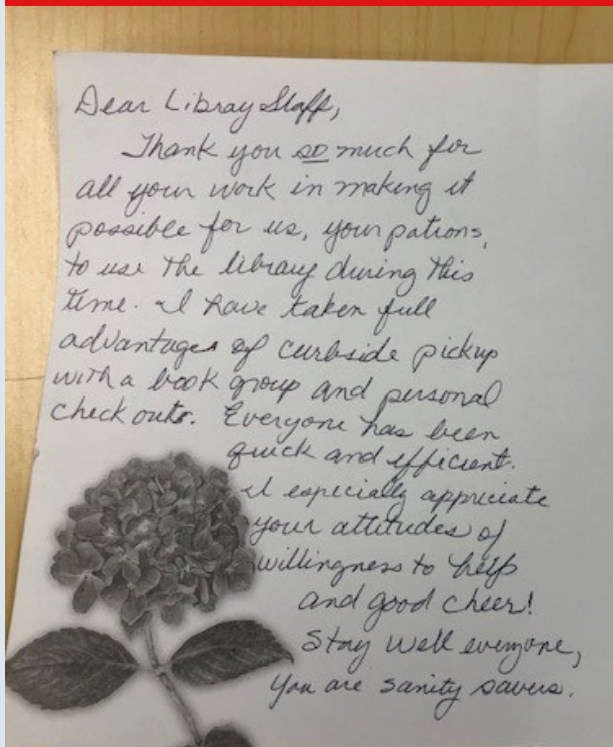
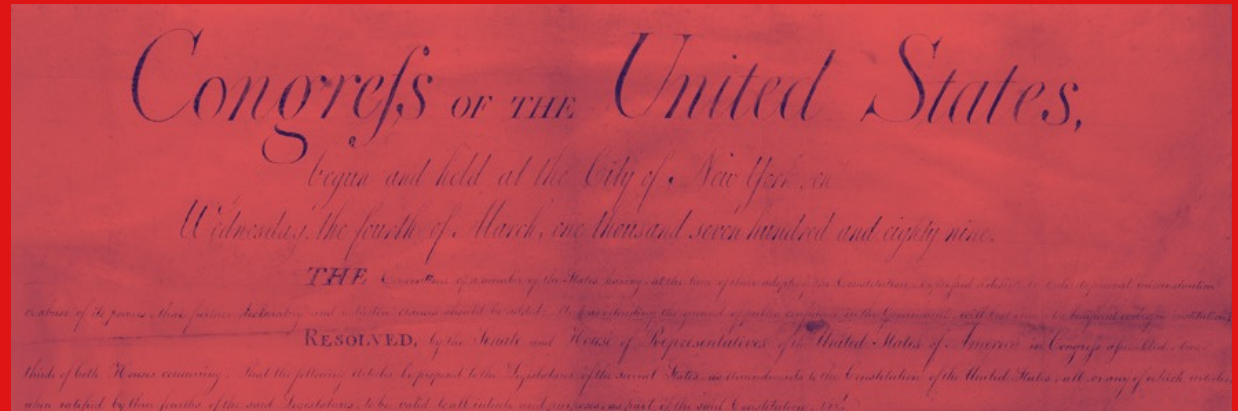
OF ALL BOOKS ARE PUBLISHED BY OR ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR

*Data on books by and about Black, Indigenous and People of Color published for children and teens compiled by the Cooperative Children's Book Center, School Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison: <https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/literature-resources/ccbc-diversity-statistics/books-by-about-poc-fnn/>

*Data on all books from *Publishers Weekly*: <https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/publisher-news/article/85450-the-unbearable-whiteness-of-publishing-revisited.html>

Intellectual Freedom

Upholding
personal rights to
confidentiality and
to access
information freely



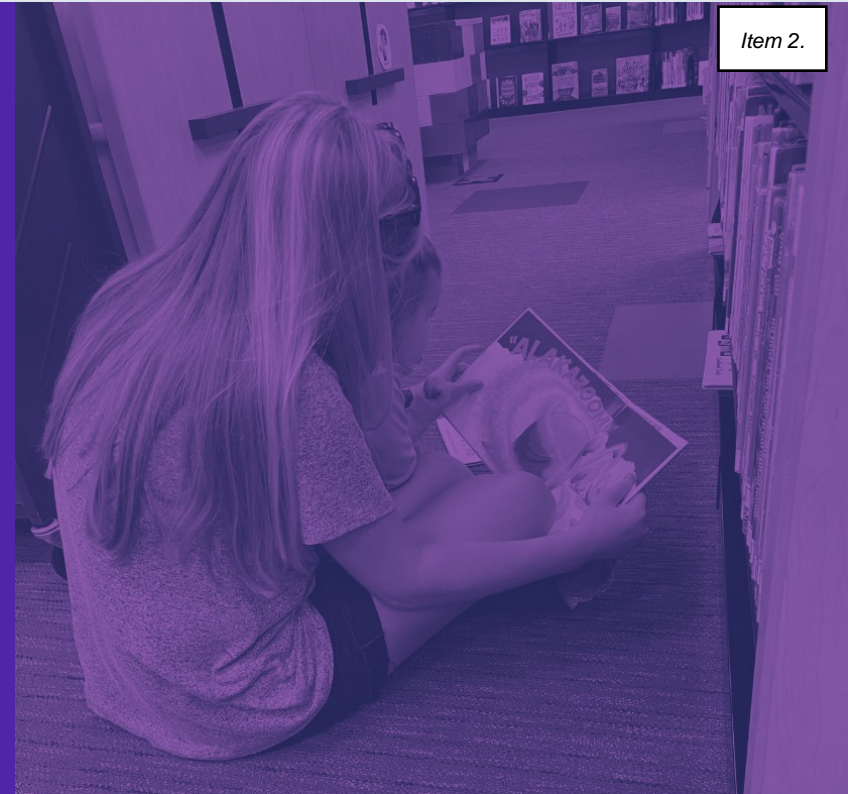
In recent months, school and public libraries across the country and in Iowa have been the targets of censorship efforts. Although CFPL has not been targeted with formal challenges, we remain committed to protecting your right to read, guaranteed in the Bill of Rights.

From the American Library Association Freedom to Read Statement:

"We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. We believe that these pressures toward conformity present the danger of limiting the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend. We believe that every American community must jealously guard the freedom to publish and to circulate, in order to preserve its own freedom to read. We believe that publishers and librarians have a profound responsibility to give validity to that freedom to read by making it possible for the readers to choose freely from a variety of offerings. The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution. Those with faith in free people will stand firm on these constitutional guarantees of essential rights and will exercise the responsibilities that accompany these rights."

Discovery, Education, & Learning

Enriching lives
through the
pursuit of
knowledge



Item 2.

Big Woods Lake StoryWalk®



"Our family is surviving this pandemic thanks to you guys! Thank you!"
~Library Patron

"We are so very lucky to have this library. Wonderful staff always so willing to help."
~Library Patron

"Hey Cedar Falls Public Library. We love our local library in CF. Shoutout to their hardworking staff, we appreciate all you do for this community."
~Library Patron



Discovery, Education, & Learning



Some library programs offered during FY21:

STORYTIMES

BOOK CLUBS FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, AND ADULTS

TWEEN TIME

WRITING PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, AND ADULTS

STEM PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

MINECRAFT FOR TEENS

LECTURE SERIES FROM THE HOOVER PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

TAKE-AND-MAKE CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN,
TEENS, AND ADULTS

WEATHER AMBASSADOR TRAINING

VIRTUAL VISIT WITH ASTRONAUT RAJA CHARI AND OTHER
NASA PROGRAMS

GARDENING AND SEED SAVING PROGRAMS

TEEN NIGHTS

Discovery, Education, & Learning

2021 Summer Library Program

Cedar Falls Public Library

Summer Reading 2021

At a Glance

845



children registered

4,614

badges earned



922



books given away

17,263



total days logged



600

votes for Miss Bekah's hair color

★ 3,808 ★

people participated in SRP programs



86

TEENS PARTICIPATED
IN THE YOUNG ADULT
SUMMER READING
PROGRAM

567

ADULTS
PARTICIPATED IN THE
ADULT SUMMER
READING PROGRAM

1,156

DAYS OF READING
LOGGED BY YOUNG
ADULTS DURING THE
SUMMER LIBRARY
PROGRAM

48

BOOKS EARNED BY
YOUNG ADULTS
DURING THE SUMMER
LIBRARY PROGRAM



Discovery, Education, & Learning

475

TOTAL NUMBER OF
LIBRARY PROGRAMS
OFFERED

15,444

TOTAL NUMBER OF
PEOPLE ATTENDING
LIBRARY PROGRAMS

52,986

VISITS TO THE
LIBRARY

8,138

REFERENCE
TRANSACTIONS

2,880

USES OF PUBLIC
COMPUTERS

265,391

WI-FI SESSIONS

Supporting the Library

Item 2.



City of Cedar Falls

Friends of the Cedar Falls Public Library

**Cedar Falls Community Foundation:
Robert & Shirley Berg Fund, Kathryn Ray
Fund, Building Fund, Mary Beckman
Endowment**

Memorial donations

Grants: ARPA, STEM

It takes a community to support a thriving library, and CFPL is fortunate to have a community of support. Funds raised by the Friends of the Library support ongoing library programs like storytimes and other youth programs, visiting authors, and numerous other programs and projects. Through the Cedar Falls Community Foundation, donor families have helped to fund programs like the Cedar Valley's Youth Read author-in-residence program, LitCon, the Cedar Valley Children's Book Festival, the summer library program, building improvements, and much more.

Many patrons have honored loved ones with memorial gifts used for new library materials. The library also pursues grant opportunities for some projects. A STEM grant provided materials for STEM programs for children and STEM kits for checkout, and an ARPA grant from the State Library of Iowa has enabled the library to acquire a book bike for outreach events beginning 2022. The generosity of those who "pay it forward" benefits the whole community of library users.

Coming Soon

- Book Bike for Outreach
- Branding the Library
- Browsing Bins in the Youth Department
- New Partnerships
- Continued Accessibility Enhancements
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for Black Hawk County



Cedar Falls Public Library
Great Communities Deserve Great Libraries

The library isn't just a place to find stories; it is a place where you can make stories. Whether you are helping a child find a book to check out, learning a new skill at a Co-Lab class, expanding your knowledge at a library program, or gathering with others and making connections at the library, the staff at the Cedar Falls Public Library is here to help you.





MAYOR ROBERT M. GREEN

CITY OF CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

220 CLAY STREET
CEDAR FALLS, IOWA 50613
PHONE 319-273-8600
FAX 319-268-5126
www.cedarfalls.com

FROM: Mayor Robert M. Green
TO: City Council
DATE: December 30, 2021
SUBJECT: Appointment of Dr. Joan Bessman Taylor to Library Board of Trustees
REF: Code of Ordinances, City of Cedar Falls §2-407

1. In accordance with the candidacy and qualification requirements of reference (a), I hereby nominate Dr. Joan Bessman Taylor for appointment to the Library Board of Trustees to fill the vacancy of a six-year term ending on June 30, 2026.
2. Dr. Taylor has extensive experience with library science; she and her family are avid Cedar Falls Public Library users and supporters. I believe she will be an excellent addition to the Board of Trustees; her General Application and Candidate Questionnaire are attached for your consideration.
3. As the City Council has requested the opportunity to interview each Library Board of Trustees nominee, I will schedule this for a Committee of the Whole meeting very soon.

Encl: (1) Dr. Joan Bessman Taylor – General Application and Candidate Questionnaire

Xc: City Administrator
Director, Finance and Business Operations
Library Director

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APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The City of Cedar Falls appreciates your interest in serving the community and welcomes your application. Please complete all sections of this application. If you have any questions, please contact City Hall at (319) 273-8600. The City of Cedar Falls is committed to providing equal opportunity for citizen involvement.

Name: **Joan Bessman Taylor** Gender: F Date: 9 August 2017
 Home Address: 1221 Franklin Street, CF Phone: 319.505.5867
 Work Address: 126 Rod Library, University of Northern Iowa Phone: 319.273.2192
 Email Address: joan.taylor@uni.edu Cell: 319.631.9251
 Employer: College of Education, UNI Position/Occupation: Associate Professor
 If Cedar Falls resident, length of residency 3 years (August 2014-present) Ward: 1

NOMINEE FOR: Library Board of Trustees _____ Board/Commission

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Please describe your present and past community involvement including voluntary, social, city, church, school, business and professional that are applicable. (Include dates of involvement, and any offices or leadership positions held.)

As a school library studies professor at UNI teaching students from all over Iowa, I am involved in many activities involving school libraries: Iowa Department of Education Teacher Librarian Leadership Team – 2008-Present; Iowa Center for the Book Advisory Council (State Library) – 2010-2014. I have also served as Coach, Jr. FIRST Lego League, 2nd - 3rd Grade Team, Cedar Falls, IA – October 2015 – March 2016. I am a member of the Cedar Valley Unitarian Universalist choir. I have three sons attending CF public schools and volunteer for field trips, co-teaching, etc. as much as possible.

SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS: Please list any special qualifications for serving on a board, including skills, training, licenses and certificates that are applicable.

I hold an MA in Library and Information Science from an American Library Association accredited program (Univ. of Southern Mississippi), a MEd in Secondary Education (Univ. of South Alabama) and a PhD in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois. I am certified through Iowa Library Services – State Library of Iowa as a Public Librarian Level VI. I have taught in both of Iowa's library schools. I am also certified in IL as a K-12 School Librarian and as a 7-12 Language Arts teacher. I taught middle school Language Arts for several years and worked closely with high school students in a residential setting.

List reasons why you would like to be appointed and what contributions you believe you can make.

I have educated many people to serve their communities through library work and would like to do so myself by providing guidance as a Board member for our local library. Libraries of all types are at a critical juncture in establishing their importance in contemporary culture and I can assist in framing these discussions. I understand the need to preserve Intellectual freedom and patron privacy and

have helped many libraries draft policy statements and administrative documents.

Item 3.

Are you aware of any conflict of interest, or potential conflict of interest, that may prevent you from carrying out your responsibilities on this Board/Commission in the best interest of the City of Cedar Falls? If so, please describe.

I have already made arrangements so that my teaching schedule at the University of Northern Iowa will not conflict with Library Board meetings. I have been encouraged by the Dean of the College of Education to apply for a position on the public library's board.

Please mail completed application to: City of Cedar Falls, Boards & Commissions, 220 Clay Street, Cedar Falls, IA 50613 or email to boards@cedarfalls.com.

CEDAR FALLS LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Nominee's Questionnaire

1. Why would you like to serve on the Cedar Falls Library Board?

I have dedicated much of my life and energy to studying libraries and librarianship and educating people to work in libraries. During my time on the faculty at the University of Iowa most of my effort was devoted to public libraries. Currently the majority of my teaching at the University of Northern Iowa focuses on preparing teachers to work as pK-12 school librarians. I want to remain engaged with public libraries in general and with the Cedar Falls Public Library in particular as it is a cultural hub for our city. I have helped create library policies enacted in many libraries across Iowa and the Midwest, served on the committee updating certification requirements for librarians serving schools, created evaluation forms for various library positions, etc. I would like to put my experience to work in a more immediate manner while preserving my life's passion: libraries.

One of my criteria for choosing where I want to raise my kids is that it must have a thriving library. When I made the decision to move my family to Cedar Falls the public library featured prominently in our desire to do so. It was the first place my kids asked to see when we explored the area. I would like to serve on the Library Board to provide support and expertise toward insuring the continued quality and vibrancy of our library. In 1931 S.R. Ranganathan published his forward-thinking five laws of library science. The fifth of these states that, "Libraries are a growing organism." This speaks to both the need to adapt to environmental change in order to survive but also to the need for libraries to be innovative in their crafting of services. These ideas are a touchstone for me in that I enjoy maintaining good things that work while exploring the new options that can come from change.

2. What are your views on the importance of a library in a community?

Acknowledging my own bias in this regard, I believe that a library is a public good and is crucial to having a happy and healthy community. Libraries provide educational and recreational resources, services and activities across the lifespan to every member of a community while being a safe place that welcomes all points of view. Libraries act as third places, social spaces beyond home and work where people find an anchor and sense of belonging to the local. They fill many gaps in people's lives from bridging the digital divide by providing access to technology to those who might otherwise not have it to fostering emergent literacy in toddlers to assisting seniors in staying in touch with current affairs.

3. The Cedar Falls Library is owned by the City of Cedar Falls. What are your views on the role of the Library Trustees keeping the City informed and involved in Library operations?

Transparency, communication and collaboration are fundamental to working professional relationships. I think there should be a two-way exchange of information between both public entities on a regular and intentional basis.

4. Library Trustees have full operational and fiduciary responsibility managing the Library. What experience do you have in the areas of personnel management, financial operations, litigation, business operation, and risk management?

I have supervised graduate student teachers studying to be librarians as well as coordinated the cooperating teachers with whom they worked. I have served as a hall director in a residential high school dorm and was responsible for managing the resident advisors in my building. I am the primary provider for a family of five.

5. What are your views on customer service?

Libraries would not exist if it were not for customers, or patrons as I prefer to call them. Patrons are a library's *raison d'être*. If you do not attend to the needs of your patrons, a group of people and needs that fluctuates over time, a library will wither and die from lack of use. Public libraries should reflect their patron base while providing ways for patrons to go beyond their current views and interests. Library customers are also the people providing the salary of library workers. There should be many avenues for their voices to be heard and honored. That being said, no one customer's desires are more important than any other's and so customer service involves balancing perhaps conflicting needs.

6. Do you believe that all Library should be offered free of charge or should there be reasonable fees for select programs and services that extend beyond basic Library offerings?

Nothing about a library is truly offered free of charge, it is just a matter of when and how the expenses for what it offers get paid. Libraries are supported by taxes and so patrons are already paying to some degree for their services. For this reason I believe that as few fees as possible should be charged for what the library offers. Being heavy-handed in regard to charging for library use is prohibitive in serving many of the people who are most in need of what the library has to offer. Historically public libraries (previously called Free Public Libraries) have followed a model in direct contrast to that of subscription (pay for use) libraries. That being said, there may be aspects of library service that warrant assessing fees. If the library were to host a 3D printer, access to the printer should be free. However, the consumable goods necessary for using the printer might require the user to pay towards that expense. Generally a model that allows for some usage before assessing a fee is ideal. In the 3D printer example it might be that after x number of items are printed additional items require payment of a fee. Due to the strain on staff time it can produce, assistance with genealogical research has been provided using this approach. The difficulty in determining whether assessing fees would be appropriate would be in establishing what constitutes "basic library offerings".

7. What role do you feel a Trustee and Library Director should play fund raising to support Library operations?

Anyone associated formally with the library inadvertently represents the library and should always be attentive to public relations and garnering support for the library. Funding can result from positive relationships built with the community. It is not generally expected that trustees or Library Directors would be required to actively fund raise.

8. What role do you believe federal and state grants play in the operation of a Library?

Grants are a significant and important boost to a library's funding and can play a key role in offering services impossible otherwise. However, a library should be able to continue basic operations in the absence of grants. Grants are temporary gains that should not be relied upon as long-term solutions to needs as they often disappear as quickly as they were initiated.

9. Do you have a view regarding the sharing of services with the Waterloo Library, including a Library Director?

Each community deserves a library that is directly responsive to its needs. Given the size and hours of operation of the Cedar Falls and Waterloo libraries, and the differences in needs represented within the communities they serve, I believe the Cedar Falls and Waterloo libraries should each have a dedicated Director. Services such as Interlibrary loan, however, rely upon the sharing of services in order to increase each community's access to resources. Staffing should be separate but other services, depending on the goals and demand for the service, might reasonable be shared.

10. Should the Library operate under the same personnel and financial policies as the City and should services between the City and Library be coordinated? (examples include: building maintenance, ground maintenance, telephone services, computer operations and janitorial services)

The degree to which services should be coordinated depends on the specificity of the service to the context. Libraries have very specific needs and ethics regarding the use and implementation of technology (protecting patron privacy for instance) and so computer operations might be treated differently than say janitorial services that vary little from one context to another. In terms of personnel policies, library employees are City employees since the library is a city agency.

11. How do you plan to integrate your personal beliefs in responding to challenges regarding censorship or materials selection at the public library?

My personal beliefs are directly aligned with the professional guidelines of librarianship when it comes to issues of Intellectual Freedom. I believe the library should include materials from diverse viewpoints and representing diverse populations. People come to the library to both confirm and challenge their own knowledge and beliefs. There is a saying that a truly great library contains something in it to offend everyone. The Library already has in place a Statement of Concern about Library Materials policy that allows someone with an objection to an item in the library's collection to make their case while preserving the rights of other patrons to make their own decisions as to what they deem appropriate. It would be greatly disappointing if the library contained only that with which I agree. I go to the library to learn about the entire world not just my personal corner of it.

In dealing with formal challenges I believe people have the right to be heard and acknowledged. This is true for the person making the complaint and for those representing that about which the complaint is being made. It is crucial for a library to have both a formal Selection Policy and a Reconsideration of Materials policy (and these should be publicly available as they currently are on the Library's website)so that decisions can be made objectively and consistently. I support and defend the ALA's Library Bill of Rights:

I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

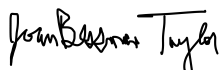
III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996



Signature

11 August 2017

Date



LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: **Joan Bessman Taylor**

Date: 6 August 2020

Can you attend board meetings on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 4pm at the Cedar Falls Library? Yes No

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Library Board of Trustees?

I want to help set the direction of the Cedar Falls Public Library and ensure that it continues to be responsive to community needs over time. I desire to work for the betterment of library services as they add to the betterment of life in Cedar Falls and our surrounding communities.

I have dedicated much of my life and energy to studying libraries and librarianship and educating people to work in and provide leadership for libraries. (I have earned both an MLIS and a PhD in Library and Information Science). During my time on the faculty of the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Iowa most of my effort was devoted to sustaining and conducting research related to public libraries. To stay current in the practices of libraries, I served on the Advisory Board for the State Library of Iowa's Center for the Book. I have helped create library policies enacted in many libraries across Iowa and the Midwest, served on the committee updating certification requirements for librarians serving schools, created evaluation forms for various library positions, etc. Currently the majority of my teaching and research at the University of Northern Iowa focuses on preparing teachers to work as pK-12 school librarians. While this work is critical and school libraries greatly need advocacy and support during these financially-challenging times, I want to remain engaged with the workings of public libraries in general and with the Cedar Falls Public Library (CFPL) in particular. The CFPL is a cultural hub for our city.

I would like to put my experience to work in a more immediate manner while preserving my life's passion: libraries. One of my criteria in choosing where to raise my kids is that there be a thriving library. When I made the decision to move my family to Cedar Falls the public library featured prominently in our desire to do so. It was the first place my kids asked to see when we explored the area. I would like to serve on the Library Board to provide support and expertise toward ensuring the continued quality and vibrancy of our library. In 1931 S.R. Ranganathan published his forward-thinking five laws of library science. The fifth of these states that, "Libraries are a growing organism." This speaks to both the need to adapt to environmental change in order to survive but also to the need for libraries to be innovative in their crafting of services. These ideas are a touchstone for me in that I enjoy maintaining good things that work while exploring the new options that can come from change.

2. What is the role of the Public Library in supporting the community as a whole?

The public library is the one space and resource that serves the community and provides increased quality of life to every one of its members from birth to end-of-life while supporting the whole range of lived experience (intellectual, educational, occupational, spiritual, and recreational).

I believe that a library is a public good and is crucial to having a happy and healthy community. Libraries provide educational and recreational resources, services and activities across the lifespan to every member of the community while being a safeplace that welcomes all points of view. Libraries act as third places - social spaces beyond home and work where people find an anchor and sense of belonging to the local. They fill many gaps in

people's lives from bridging the digital divide by providing access to technology to those who might otherwise not have it, to fostering emergent literacy in toddlers, to helping adolescents explore their identity and interests, to assisting seniors in staying in touch with current affairs and civic engagement. In order to best support the community as a whole it should continuously solicit input and feedback on its programs and collections from as many directions and sources as possible and should partner with other community organizations to promote equity and inclusion throughout the community.

3. Because the Cedar Falls Public Library is owned by the City of Cedar Falls, what is the appropriate role of the Trustees in keeping the City informed and involved in library operations?

Library Trustees should attend City Council meetings to keep the Council informed of the library's activities and needs. The confidentiality of some library business must be balanced with compliance to Freedom of Information laws. The Library must report all income and expenditures to the City. Powers delegated to the Board are a public trust. Transparency should be the goal of communication unless matters legally/ethically require confidentiality. Both the Library and the City share the responsibility of attaining community satisfaction and so must work together on some issues.

4. The Trustees provide operational and fiduciary oversight for the Library; what is your experience in personnel management, financial operations, litigation, business operation, and risk management?

My experience in personnel management is the result of serving in several different positions over time. As a Hall Director / Residential Faculty member at the Alabama School of Mathematics and Science I hired, evaluated and advised hall staff for the girls' dorm. I also served as Vice-Principal for Summer Programs one summer and was in charge of discipline of students and scheduling of staff. As a seventh grade teacher I was part of a middle school team of teachers who worked together to plan instruction, maintain discipline, etc. I also had to monitor that students qualifying for special education services and on IEPs (individualized educational plans) were getting their needs met and being supplied with the accommodations to which they were legally entitled. I currently serve as Program Coordinator for the School Library Studies graduate program at UNI. In this capacity I hire adjunct faculty to teach in our program, I coordinate with the Graduate College, Continuing Education & Special Programs, the Department of Curriculum & Instruction within the College of Education regarding all aspects of providing a degree program including maintaining the budget, creating and facilitating marketing, course scheduling, active recruitment, and student mediation among many other aspects. This work includes coordinating with other offices on campus related to financial and business operations. As a planner of a number of professional development workshops for my College I have advocated for and worked responsibly within budgets supplied by donors, student funds, and other endowments. I am part of the Teacher Librarian Leadership Team that works with the Iowa BOEE (Board of Educational Examiners) to set and monitor licensure and endorsements for teacher librarians in Iowa. I have been involved with actions at the State level around the definition of school libraries and staffing in Iowa Code and the Administrative Rules. Though fortunately it has not resulted in litigation, I have been part of University conversations involving the Office of Equity Management regarding issues of racial discrimination on campus.

5. Should the Cedar Falls Public Library be completely free of charge, or should fees be charged for select programs and services that extend beyond basic library offerings?

Nothing about a library is truly offered free of charge, it is just a matter of when and how the expenses for what it offers get paid. Libraries are supported by taxes and so patrons are already paying to some degree for their services. For this reason I believe that as few fees as possible should be charged for what the library offers. Being heavy-handed in regard to charging for library use is prohibitive in serving many of the people who are most in need of what the library has to offer. It is important to assess whether what the library would gain in charging for a service

would justify any disruption to patron satisfaction or to the social justice the library enables. Historically public libraries (previously called Free Public Libraries) have followed a model in direct contrast to that of subscription (for use) libraries. That being said, there may be aspects of library service that warrant assessing fees. The library's hosting of a 3D printer is one example. Access to the printer should be free. However, the consumable goods necessary for using the printer are charged to the user to pay towards that expense. Generally there is some initial level of supply provision that is offered "free" to the patron but once exceeded fees are assessed. This enables the patron to do things they would otherwise not be able to do if the library did not offer access but prevents overburdening the library. All patrons have a right to the materials and equipment of the library so balance of use must be taken into account when policies governing new services are created. The greater difficulty in addressing the concerns of this question comes in determining what constitutes "basic library offerings" and measuring community expectations for these.

6. If Library materials selection or self-censorship violates a Trustee's personal beliefs, how might that Trustee best respond?

It is the responsibility of the Library Director and the Library Board to protect and defend intellectual freedom, a right established by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The American Library Association defines intellectual freedom as "the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction. It provides for free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question cause or movement may be explored." The clause "every individual" means that one person's perspective on an item cannot impede the rights of another to have access to that item.

In order to make decisions in keeping with this obligation to preserve access to ideas the library utilizes a Board-approved Collection Development Policy which governs materials selection and guides the purchasing of library resources in response to community needs. If an item is deemed in keeping with the principles established for collection and as having a possible audience within the service community it should be retained regardless of any one individual's objection to it (even if that individual is a Trustee). Included in the Collection Development policy is a means to request reconsideration of materials. (CFPL calls this a "Statement of Concern about Library Materials".) It is vital that there is a clear process for responding to someone's concerns about library materials and that the collection experts are involved in it. Having a clearly defined process that is enacted consistently protects the rights of all involved. This process includes the fact that any objection to an item should only be considered if the person making the complaint has read/viewed the item in its entirety and is making the complaint about the work as a whole and not taking something out of context. Almost any work in a library collection will offend someone but is also valued by someone else. Protecting the rights of a community sometimes requires setting aside one's own discomfort for the sake of preserving the greater principle. If a library worker is believed to be disrupting a patron's right to read, etc. by engaging in self-censorship the Library Director should intervene. Professional development around the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read may be in order.

Please send this completed Candidate Questionnaire by the published deadline to:

City of Cedar Falls, Boards & Commissions, 220 Clay Street, Cedar Falls, IA 50613, fax to (319) 268-5126, or e-mail to boards@cedarfalls.com. You will be notified shortly if selected as a Finalist for the appointment