



BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INDIANOLA PUBLIC LIBRARY

August 11, 2026

5:30 PM

Indianola Public Library - Meeting Room B

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Public Comment**
- 3. Agenda Approval**
- 4. Minutes Approval**
 - A. July 14, 2026 Meeting Minutes*
- 5. Trustee Continuing Education**
 - A. Trustee Handbook, Ch. 8: Evaluating Services
- 6. Financial Reports**
 - A. Approve Monthly Claims*
 - B. Review Financial Reports
- 7. Unfinished Business**
 - A. Election of Officers*
- 8. New Business**
 - A. Open House & Survey Results
 - B. Library Location
- 9. Reports**
 - A. Friends of the Library Report
 - B. Director's Report
- 10. Agenda Items for Next Meeting**
- 11. Trustee Comments**
- 12. Adjourn**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INDIANOLA PUBLIC LIBRARY

July 14, 2026

5:30 PM

Indianola Public Library - Meeting Room B

Agenda

Present: Library Director - Michele Patrick, Randi Malone, Cyd Dyer, Andy Brittingham, Lisa Parker, Dawn Goodale, Andrea Carlson

1. Call to Order

- a. Welcome New Board Member Lisa Parker

Andy called the meeting to order at 5:33pm. Introductions were made to new board member, Lisa Parker.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Agenda Approval

MOTION: *Randi motioned to approve the agenda. Dawn seconded. Motion carried.*

4. Minutes Approval

- a. June 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes*

Dawn made minor suggested changes to grammar/spelling.

MOTION: *Cyd motioned to approve the June 9 minutes with the amended grammar/spelling changes. Andrea seconded. Motion carried.*

5. Trustee Continuing Education

- a. Review City of Indianola Library Ordinances

Michele shared the ordinances and reviewed specific items. There were no comments or suggestions from trustees.

6. Financial Reports

- a. Approve Monthly Claims*

Michele detailed expenses to the group, highlighting two invoices and the year-end and monthly formats.

MOTION: *Randi motioned to approve the monthly claims. Andrea seconded. Motion carried for the monthly claims.*

MOTION: *Randi motioned to approve the year-end financials. Cyd seconded. Motion carried for the year-end report.*

- b. Review Financial Reports

Michele reviewed a financial snapshot for the year-end as well as the monthly claims and summarized the list of expenditures. She also created a single-page format, along with the standard format with summary page. It was noted for clarity that we spend money and the Friends reimburse us for applicable expenses. A discussion was held about memorials and Enrich Iowa Funds and Michele explained how money works within those funds and what they are used for.

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Concept Design

A short discussion was held on the concept design from OPN and the City Council presentation. Further discussion was held about the future library building status.

8. New Business

- a. Agenda Posting Resolution*

Discussion was held regarding the agenda posting resolution.

MOTION: *Randi motioned to approve the Agenda Posting Resolution. Andrea seconded. Motion carried.*

- b. Policy Review: Credit/Debit Card Policy*

Discussion was held regarding the Credit/Debit card policy.

MOTION: *Randi motioned to approve the Credit/Debit Card policy as presented. Andrea seconded. Motion carried.*

- c. Election of FY27-28 Officers*

Discussion was held regarding the current roles and upcoming needs. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

- d. Committee Assignments for FY27-28*

Discussion was held regarding Committee Assignments. Committees will largely remain the same with Lisa joining the Personnel Committee.

MOTION: *Randi motioned to approve the Committee Assignments for FY27-28. Andrea seconded. Motion carried.*

9. Reports

- a. Friends of the Library Report

No Report

- b. Director's Report

Michele gave her report and noted the statistics. She highlighted updates on new staff and the decrease in program attendance, which is in line with current money and staff availability for programming. Staff is evaluating programs and thoughtfully considering the upcoming year's schedule.

10. Agenda Items for the Next Meeting

Election of FY27-28 Officers was tabled to the next meeting.

11. Trustee Comments

No Trustee Comments.

12. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn by Andy. *The meeting adjourned at 6:47pm.*



Chapter 8: Evaluating Service and Advocating for Advancements

Evaluating Service

The library has a strategic plan and a budget that dictate what the library should be doing to provide service to the community. It is the board's responsibility to monitor and evaluate overall results of service and programming based on these documents. Monitoring doesn't mean that you should be in the library every day observing the kind of service provided by library staff. However, the board can survey the community to measure the satisfaction of those who use the library and to identify strengths and areas for improvement. The very term "trustee" indicates what the community expects from you. The community puts its trust in you to make sure the library is operating the way it should and the library is achieving the desired outcomes. It's your job to keep an eye on the progress of the library for the community.

A successful library reflects the strategic plan and the annual budget working to support each other.

Board Evaluation

Another aspect of evaluation is gauging the effectiveness of the board itself. Successful boards pay attention to communication, relationships, and hold themselves accountable for smart decision making. The most highly functioning libraries are led by highly functioning boards.

Your group should take time every year to formally evaluate board performance. The purpose of a board evaluation exercise is not to find fault with individuals, but instead to identify strengths and areas for improvement. A board evaluation should be followed with a plan to improve. See **Appendix** for sample board assessment tools.

Advocating For Advancements

As a library advocate, it is necessary that you understand the value and importance of public library service. And further, that you communicate that value to the community, government leaders, and other decision-makers. When you advocate for better public library service, you are promoting a better quality of life for your community today and in the future. Advocacy is a primary role of library trustees because you have statutory responsibility for your library's governance and are expected to better its services.

As a volunteer leader of the library, you can be a good advocate for the organization because your motivation is service to the community. Board members are also community leaders and influential in the community, prime qualities for an advocate. You serve as the connection between the local community and its public library and are in a unique position to promote the library and see that it meets the needs of the community.

Advocacy efforts will generally be part of a planned board effort, where the board speaks with one voice. You, as an individual board member, can speak about the board's official position on issues and can also promote the interests of the library at any time. Advocacy may include establishing a relationship with the mayor, city council, and county board of supervisors; communicating to the taxpayers the needs and plans of the library; and carrying out public relations activities for the library.

In carrying out its advocacy role, one of the main responsibilities of library boards is to obtain adequate funding for the library. As a representative of the general public, you can make a more effective case for the importance of adequate funding for the library than the director, who may be viewed as having a vested interest in a larger budget.

Effective advocacy requires:

- ❖ A deep personal commitment to your library and the services it provides.
- ❖ A willingness to go out into your community on behalf of the library.
- ❖ A sense of what the community needs the library to be in the future.
- ❖ A willingness to work to help move the library forward.

Telling the Library Story

Don't wait for a budget presentation to make a case for needed funding or to describe library programs and services. To make sure the library is seen as an essential community service, tell the library story all year. Invite officials to library programs and activities. Ask the director to provide reference services and assistance to city departments and officials. Share your successes with your city and county. Awards, record numbers at summer library programs, staff accomplishments and news articles should be part of regular reporting about the library to the city council.

In your community there are people who use the library and people who pay taxes to support the library but do not use it. Embrace all community members and be prepared to work with groups as well as individuals. This means not just waiting for an invitation, but initiating opportunities to meet with community groups such as Rotary, Kiwanis, school parent-teacher groups, Chamber of Commerce. Learn about community issues, interests, and concerns. Work with the director and other board members to communicate how the library can meet the needs of the community.

A successful advocate can bring new users and new revenue into the library, as well as increased awareness of library service. Legislators have been known to change their view of libraries after speaking to a trustee advocate. Or the people you talk with might become so enthused that they will leave a bequest to the library in their will, help with a fundraiser, or speak to state or federal legislators on behalf of the library.

More information regarding **Advocacy** is available on the State Library website.

Intellectual Freedom Advocate

Finally, as a trustee advocate, you will be a defender of intellectual freedom, defined by the American Library Association as the “the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction.” Once the board has established a collection development policy and library resources are purchased which respond to community needs, trustee advocates must recognize a sacrosanct responsibility to permit people access to those materials. One of the most frequent questions asked of trustee advocates (usually in front of an audience) is whether a particular book or other item should be in the library's collection. The response must be unequivocal in defense of intellectual freedom.

See **Chapter 15: Intellectual Freedom** for more information.

“A library outranks any other one thing that a community can do to benefit its people.”

Andrew Carnegie

Full Library Board Assessment

Instructions: Discuss each point collectively and come to a rating consensus. Consider the areas of overall board strength, consider the areas that need improvement. Rank the following statements with **1** being “no/never,” **2** being “sometimes,” and **3** being “always.”

Statement	1	2	3
The board has a process for the recruitment and recommendation of people for open positions when vacancies occur.			
The board has a process for new trustee orientation.			
The board stays abreast of the financial status of the library and its funding sources.			
The board sets the direction for the library through strategic planning.			
The board uses the planning document to inform decision-making.			
The board reviews and adopts a budget that reflects the current strategic plan.			
The board evaluates the library director annually based on a written job description.			
The board feels free to communicate problems to the director in a timely manner.			
The board is familiar with state and federal laws governing libraries.			
The board has established bylaws to oversee its governance.			
The board has established clear policies to govern and guide library operations.			
The board continually reviews and updates the library's policies.			
The board safeguards the public's First Amendment and Intellectual Freedom rights by protecting freedom of access, while also being open to the public's comments.			
The board is aware of patron privacy protections under the Iowa Code and ensures that its policies are consistent with the law.			
The board is representative of the community it serves.			
The board is politically active, advocating for libraries in the public policy arena.			
The board annually assesses its own performance.			
The board receives or shares information needed to make informed decisions in a timely manner.			
The board allows time at each meeting for discussion of emerging issues and trends.			
The board encourages open discussion and expression of dissenting opinions during board meetings.			
The board speaks with one voice after a vote is taken.			
The board recognizes and thanks staff and volunteers for their efforts.			
The board embraces a culture of learning for themselves and staff.			
TOTAL			

Attribution: State Library of Iowa

Invoices for Board Meeting

August 11, 2026



Vendor	Amount	Description of services or goods
Amazon	\$5,203.91	Craft supplies, DVDs, TBR goodies, books, other materials and supplies
Blackstone Audio	\$77.82	Audiobooks on CD
Center Point Large Print	\$32.21	Large print books
City of Indianola (IMU)	\$2,287.35	Utilities
Demco	\$69.36	Computer stand, covering & repair supplies, bookmarks
Dust Pros	\$1,787.50	Janitorial services, supplies(
Ingram	\$549.33	Books
Iowa Division of Labor Services	\$40.00	Monthly boiler Inspection
Iowa Water Management Co.	\$54.48	Monthly agreement
Midwest Alarm Services	\$39.00	Annual fire extinguisher inspection
Springer Pest Control	\$91.30	Pest management
TRM Disposal	\$133.00	Trash removal
Woosley Landscape and Mowing	\$300.00	Mowing services
WT Cox	\$2,051.68	Annual magazine and newspaper subscription renewals
Wells Fargo	\$2,594.08	See statements for details

Total: \$15,311.02

Approved

Date

Approved

Date

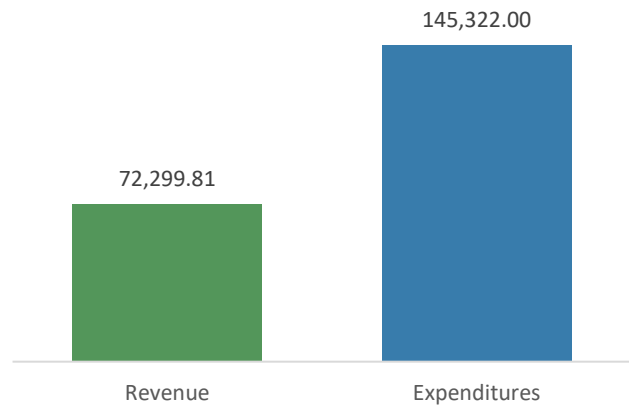
Financial Snapshot | July 2026



Summary

▲ Revenue is typical for this time of the tax cycle.

▼ Expenditures exceeded the monthly average due to annual contract payments due in July and increased personnel expenses resulting from the three-paycheck month.



Revenue

Total Budget	YTD Received	% Received	Budget Status
\$947,599.00	\$72,299.81	6.0%	● On track

Expenditures

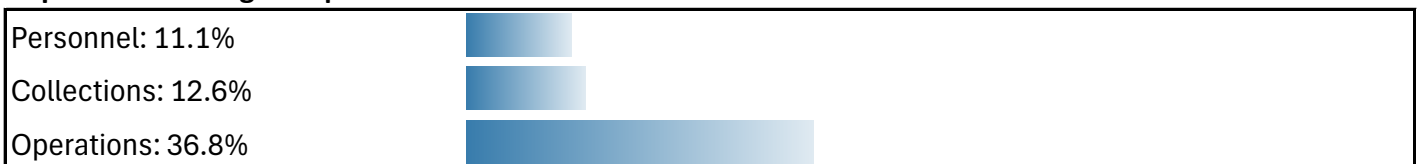
Total Budget	YTD Spending	% Budget Spent	Budget Status
\$947,599.00	\$145,322.00	15.3%	● Normal

Fund Summaries - 8% of budget year

Revenue Funds | TYD Totals



Expenditure Categories | YTD Totals



Revenue | July 2026



Summary

	July Total	YTD Received	FY26 Budget	% Received	Status
	\$72,299.86	\$72,299.86	\$947,598.52	7.6%	● On track

8% of Budget Year

- Revenue is typical for this time of the year.

July Fund Details	July 2026	YTD Received	FY27 Budget	% Received
Property Taxes*	58,299.63	58,299.63	699,595.52	8.3%
Library Services Reimbursements	0.00	0.00	82,000.00	0.0%
Misc. Sales	514.30	514.30	4,500.00	11.4%
Library Fines	282.59	282.59	3,000.00	9.4%
Trust & Agency Property Taxes	13,203.34	13,203.34	158,504.00	8.3%
TOTAL	72,299.86	72,299.86	947,599.52	7.6%

Funds Defined

Property Taxes = City General Fund; *estimated totals

Library Services Reimbursements = County reimbursement for services to rural residents

Misc Sales = Photocopies, earbuds

Library Fines = Billed items (not fines)

Trust & Agency Property Taxes = Employee benefits levy; *estimated

Expenditures | July 2026



Summary

	July Total	YTD Received	FY26 Budget	% Received	Status
	\$145,321.69	\$145,321.69	\$947,598.52	15.3%	● Normal

8% of Budget Year

The annual contract for our Integrated Library System is our largest expense each year and is renewed in July. As a result, it's normal for expenses to exceed revenue during the first part of the fiscal year.

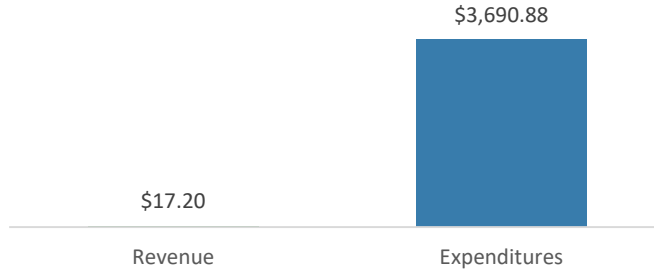
July Fund Details	July 2026	YTD	FY27 Budget	% Spent
1 Salary/Wages	16,249.33	16,249.33	146,949.94	11.1%
2 Salary/Wages	46,752.83	46,752.83	414,659.00	11.3%
3 FICA	4,748.23	4,748.23	42,963.08	11.1%
4 IPERS	6,043.73	6,043.73	53,015.88	11.4%
5 Deferred Comp-457	400.00	400.00	4,800.00	8.3%
6 Employee Assistance Program	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.0%
7 Wellness Program	0.00	0.00	270.00	0.0%
8 Health Insurance	4,496.18	4,496.18	43,012.32	10.5%
9 Dental Insurance	320.38	320.38	3,844.56	8.3%
10 Vision Insurance	32.92	32.92	395.04	8.3%
11 HSA Expense	1,474.08	1,474.08	9,599.70	15.4%
12 Life Insurance/ADD/LTD/STD	0.00	0.00	4,833.00	0.0%
13 Workers' Comp Insurance	0.00	0.00	270.00	0.0%
14 Membership Dues	0.00	0.00	920.00	0.0%
15 Education/Training	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%
16 Mileage	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.0%
17 Repair/Maint	1,149.46	1,149.46	21,040.00	5.5%
18 Utilities	2,109.60	2,109.60	23,000.00	9.2%
19 Advertising & Legal Notices	57.98	57.98	1,700.00	3.4%
20 Insurance--General Liability	6,010.94	6,010.94	6,512.00	92.3%
21 Insurance--Property	10,946.10	10,946.10	10,495.00	104.3%
22 Insurance--Boiler/Machinery	558.61	558.61	679.00	82.3%
23 Janitorial Services	1,919.55	1,919.55	23,600.00	8.1%
24 Misc Contractual	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	0.0%
25 Library Books & Periodicals	3,805.08	3,805.08	56,000.00	6.8%
26 Digital Materials	4,891.57	4,891.57	8,200.00	59.7%

July Fund Details		July 2026	YTD	FY27 Budget	% Spent
27	Special Collections	266.85	266.85	6,800.00	3.9%
28	Office Supplies	32.98	32.98	3,000.00	1.1%
29	Materials/Supplies	130.02	130.02	5,300.00	2.5%
30	Materials/Supplies--Program	32.28	32.28	8,300.00	0.4%
31	Postage	115.54	115.54	1,000.00	11.6%
32	Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.0%
33	Computer Hardware/Software	32,777.45	32,777.45	37,140.00	88.3%
TOTAL		145,321.69	145,321.69	947,598.52	15.3%

Library Special Revenue | July



Year to Date



● We are waiting for reimbursements from the Friends for summer programs.

Revenue		July	YTD	Notes
44302	Enrich Iowa Revenue	0.00	0.00	
45040	Friends of the Library Programs	0.00	0.00	
47050	Donations, Gifts, and Grants	0.00	0.00	
47051	Friends of the Library Summer	17.20	17.20	Booksale
47057	Memorials/City Account (Friends)	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL		17.20	17.20	

Expenditures		July	YTD	Notes
65025	Enrich Iowa Expenses	179.91	179.91	FY26 expense
65024	Friends of the Library Programs	145.80	145.80	waiting for reimbursement
65020	Donations, Gifts, and Grants	862.18	862.18	
65025	Friends of the Library Summer	2,491.00	2,491.00	waiting for reimbursement
67809	Memorials/City Account (Friends)	11.99	11.99	
TOTAL		3,690.88	3,690.88	

Friends Summary	Revenue	Expenditures
(excluding Friends Memorials)	17.20	2,648.79

Friends Memorials | July 2026

Memorial gifts given directly to the Friends for Library Use

Date	Memorial	Donor	Designation	Amount
7/23/2026	Martha Peterson	Birkland-Long	Current programs	15.00

MEMO



To: Library Board of Trustees
From: Michele Patrick, Library Director
Date: August 2026
Subject: FY27-28 Officers

Every two years the board elects (or re-elects) officers for a two-year term.

Current Officers:

President:	Andy Brittingham
Vice President:	Randi Malone
Secretary:	Randi Malone
Friends of the Library Liaison: *	Sally Van Dorin

* The Liaison attends the Friends' monthly meetings, held on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m., and reports to each group on the other's activities.

MEMO

To: Library Board of Trustees
From: Michele Patrick, Library Director
Date: August 2026
Subject: Library Concept Design Open House and Comments

In addition to OPN Architects and library staff, 104 people attended the July 15 open house to view the concept design for a new library. Feedback from attendees was collected through electronic and paper comment cards, and those responses have been combined into the following report.



Library Design Open House Survey Summary

Total responses: 63

- 42 from open house attendees
- 21 online responses

Overall feedback was predominantly positive. Most respondents supported building a new library and viewed the concept designs favorably, particularly the larger Option 1A. Many felt the current library no longer meets community needs and emphasized planning for future growth rather than building only for today's demand.

What People Liked Most

The strongest themes included:

- More space for books, programming, study, and community use.
- Natural light and open design, with many praising the large windows and bright interior.
- Community-focused spaces, including meeting rooms, study rooms, maker space, teen area, children's spaces, and programming rooms.
- Outdoor spaces, especially the courtyard and green space.
- Future growth, with appreciation for expansion potential.
- Modern appearance, with many describing the design as welcoming, attractive, and a source of community pride.

Many respondents specifically favored Option 1A, citing its additional meeting rooms, outdoor plaza, and overall flexibility.

Most Common Concerns

1. Location (Most Frequently Mentioned Concern)

The proposed site generated the greatest amount of criticism.

- Too far from downtown or the city center.
- Near the grain elevator, truck traffic, and heliport.

- Noise, dust, and surrounding industrial uses.
- Questions about accessibility for children, seniors, and pedestrians.
- Suggestions to remain at the current site, locate near the square, expand the Wellness Center, or consider other alternative sites.

2. Building Size

- Build for the next 50–100 years.
- Don't underestimate future growth.
- More meeting and storage space will be needed.
- Several stated that the proposed building could already be too small.

3. Windows and Energy Efficiency

- Heating and cooling costs
- West-facing glass and afternoon glare
- Long-term maintenance and cleaning
- Hail resistance

4. Cost and Funding

- Greater transparency about project funding.
- Information on fundraising opportunities.
- Assurance that long-term operating costs have been considered.
- Careful use of taxpayer dollars.

Responses:

Do you like the concept design for a new Indianola Public Library?

Open House Attendees:

No. Way so many windows facing west. The west is where the sun is strongest. What about hail that often hit the west side of buildings. Does not appear to be energy efficient.

Yes. I enjoyed view the option 1 because of the meeting room.

Yes. option with the high windows

Yes. I like the esthetics of the building, it looks very sleek
I thought the design proposed seem to be well planned to give Indianola the type of library a community of this size deserves.
Yes
As long as it "fits" in w/ neighborhood / what does future development in area look like?
I like it! The potential for growth is enormous in that area w/ the library anchoring it.
No.
Plan A (most expensive) is my preference. Very beautiful
Yes, especially all the natural light and incorporation of the outdoor space.
Yes! 1A is beautiful and functional. Build the largest facility you can at this juncture: "If you build it They will come" This is Iowa!
Yes! Especially option 1.
Yes, the largest building.
Yes, all of the plans offer more space for the public library's inventory and its patrons
Yes for options 1a and b
It's ok. Didn't expect it to be so modern looking when compared to other buildings in town.
yes
Yes, I love the idea of having more than double the space we have now. The library is highly used and needs more room.
Yes - a separate wall in for noise control children's area
Option 1b gives us a needed space with a common plan without high windows. Better use of our money.
Yes - pleasantly surprised. Like the orientation of the building - not facing 16th
It is very pretty
More or less. I'm concerned that the handicapped spaces are not directly in front of the door as they are now. There are many elderly patrons with limited mobility.
Yes, we need a bigger library. *Comment - rendering seems overly "modern" which adds to cost. Enlarge space and lose architectural features. 50 years from now that will be dated. Think Brenton Student Center and Dunn Library.
Very pleased with it. Glad to see the need is recognized.
Yes!
Yes!
Yes. Love it, my kids already all go to the library, but we loved the propsed one way more.

Yes
Yes. Just to big for opinion
Yes
Yes
Yes
I'm not an architect or engineer and found the information difficult to understand—especially the drawings.

What do you like about it?

Open House Attendees:

I like that there is more space. Our town outgrew the current library years ago.
The natural light, nature, and the community spaces.
1) Love that there is a dedicated space for community fridge/pantry. 2) The maker space! Absolutely love. 3) having study rooms is so great - especially for those of us who work in communities/our cars to be able to have another space we can work with our confidential info and having meetings. 4) teen section being not blocked by the children space makes it feel more welcoming for adults to browse that collection (I don't feel like I can browse YA even though I read a lot of YA currently because it's so separate and adults ain't supposed to hang out there) 5) love all the programming spaces! 6) green spaces!
Trying to think of something.
green space is super nice. Also enjoy large windows
everything - green space, design
More space and daylight
I like the abundance of windows which gives a feel of being connected to nature.
There appears to be design adaptability to provide for expansion and future needs.
Open
Size/room for growth
The floor layout seems to be good with plenty of room for everyone.
Well, I guess even if it's in a bad place I would like that it's a library. It would have books in it; I would like that.

The windows the meeting rooms
I also like the addition of more community rooms, and the alignment of all the children's elements in one space.
Beautiful space for engaging with traditional library materials but also for gathering and access library resources and materials of the future. This building will be a point of pride for our community and the new space will be attractive to visitors to our town. Continue to meet needs of parents of young children.
The windows and light, open space, the outdoor space/courtyard. The dedicated spaces for children and teens and the additional meeting and study rooms are very much needed.
It has light filled spaces, it invites the inside and outside to compliments one another, the larger meeting room could accommodate the communities desire for gathering and programs. The square footage could hold the materials and study area the community needs
I prefer floor plan 1a due to the amount of space it offers, including the outdoor plaza. I'd be ok settling on the 1b plan. The kitchen design seems pretty cool and I love all the space for the teens.
The open courtyard by the east entrance. The high ceilings and all the windows to let in natural light.
Ample parking and outdoor space. Includes plans for expansion if/when needed. It's near the bike trail.
"airy"ness of design, addition of meeting room 3, large area availability for future growth
I really like 1(a) because I feel that it meets alot of the current and future community needs. It looks modern and bright w/ enough space for everyone who uses the library.
Open and glass plan for future expansion
Open - natural light More space for books/children, meeting rooms - study rooms
Lots of natural light
It is bright and open
Commitment to meeting spaces. More room for books.
Open and available. Space to bring in all the things that will benefit the community.
Love the natural light! Love the extra space. DOUBLE! Almost TRIPLE! Long overdue!
Increased space; thought-out focus for different ages/uses; tech/maker spaces
Seeing the green courtyard space right inside the library (opt 1a)
Bigger!

It looks nice
Lots of windows, good layout. Maker Space. Reasonable prices.
Layout Courtyard Maker space!
The windows, more space and parking
Larger building space.

Online Responses:

I like the design of the building
....more space. ...curb appealmeeting rooms. ...space to add ongreen space. ...community room ...lots of light ...storagestory time space
Love the natural light
Native plants instead of turf grass
We do not need to build a new library
It look pretty and huge.
I like all the windows on the outside.
It feels welcoming, bright, and functional, and I appreciate the focus on natural light, flexible gathering spaces, and creating a library that can better serve the community than the current building. I definitely support building a new library.
Size
Love the idea of a new library - more space for books, community and additional learning opportunities.
Large and modern appearing
Leave the current library alone, where it is, and how it is. As tax paying citizens of Indianola, we are not in a position to fund one more thing. Leave it be.
I like the concept of the building
What is missing is it's relationship to surrounding space - it just can't be ignored
Bigger, open spaces, more room for books, all the added amenities that we currently don't have.
Space for programming. Open floorplan.
bigger and more books. better lighting

What do you think could be improved?

Open House Attendees:

It could be even bigger. Record attendance and usage for many straight years equals a need and desire for more.
I dont have specific items, but my biggest thoughts might be next step items. Making sure the spaces planned can accommodate more people than expected. That the building is relatively easy to maintain and repair.
1) flat roof idea - is that a risk for roof leakage/caving if there's too much snow? 2) is it an environmentally friendly build design? - with that many windows (which I love), will the utility bills greatly increase? Solar an option?
The new location different from the one behind HyVee
w/ the current location the book drop off was slightly difficult to locate. I like the new book drop
Assurance of adequate funding to support the plans and options indicated in the plans.
All good.
I really think it should be bigger!
It is unacceptable for it to be so far from the center of town. When I make the long drive from the farm to Indianola, I want to park the care once and walk to do all my business.
Parking lot is too far from building. Access for handy caps
More children's area. I don't like the location. It should be more centrally located.
I love the natural light the steel and glass would provide but it also takes away a sense of coziness and character that should exist in a library. A sense of history. It seems a bit like any building, anywhere. Wherever there isn't glass, special attention should be given to material choices, especially utilizing natural materials whenever possible for character and warmth.
Consider space that appeal to parents of young children to encourage families to make Library a destination. Include covered/shaded outdoor space to sit and read or to park bicycles. Find ways to connect to cycling community.
I'm concerned that it isn't large enough. While it is obviously a significant improvement over the current space, when compared with library size in comparable communities, it is on the small side.
There should be a plan for an open space area or park outside of the building.
I think the storage rooms could be bigger. Libraries require a lot of space for their other services.
More parking on the west
Teen area still seems small - but nice to see study rooms.
see question 4

I really can't think of anything that would need to be improved. It looks like all groups of people that use the library would have the functionality they need with room for growth.
- What if you did the #1 w/ only change short height - Need vast improvement on electronics - computers
Incorporate into bike trail - even the least little bit to build support. Design is in isolation - you have to talk about the "elephants" in the room - grain elevator/lots to north and south, east/west -- don't ignore
-Concerned about sufficient collection space w/lower shelves -Concerned about reduced community rooms (1b and 2)
Make sure meeting spaces are accessible after hours. Brings community in and see value besides "just books"
Space! More space is always good. Entry options. Handicap spaces close to doors?
A shortcoming of the current library doesn't look to be address in plans - how can community rooms be accessed OUTSIDE library hours?
more outside seating, open space; possibly larger tech space (not sure how much this is used).
Take care with acoustics. Add quiet spaces into or around large open space
Would like a different location but understand the limits of purchasing additional land.
If we're planning for growth, it will need more space.
More storage needed, especially for future growth! A fireplace or two
Cafe and video game area
There seems to be lots of large, open space with high ceilings. I know this design style is "in". But, is it really cost effective and the best use of space? Or, wasting space=money for what is currently aesthetic and not best use of funds? Has thought been put into the heating /cooling of high ceilings & lots of windows?
The location is not good. When the grain is in use, it will be noisy and dusty. It should be in a location closer to the square. Keep it on the land it is on today.

Online Responses:

The location of of 6th Street is a terrible idea. It's on a truck route and the elevator is across the street.
Seems like it could be difficult to keep cool in summer
If you can afford solar panels, that would be awesome!

Windows are fun but heating and cooling costs will be significantly higher. Important to consider when budgets are tight
As long as there's books I'm happy
Less windows. Carpet the lobby. Young adults should not have to climb over chairs to access books, as shown in multiple concept images. Lots of carpet to reduce noise.
Nothing.
I think the design plays it too safe. For this level of investment I expected something more iconic and forward thinking. I'd love to see less focus on traditional collections and more emphasis on flexible community spaces, teens, and outdoor experiences that make the library memorable. It shouldn't be the building we've needed for the past 15 years, it should be the one we need for the next 100.
Less glass, more usable space
The proposed location is a complete disappointment. To ask the community to make an investment like this and place it three blocks off the highway, behind a helicopter landing pad and agriculture structures is absurd. Why is this not located near the city center, the downtown Square. Why are we as a community not continuing to build upon what we have started. This project should enhance the community, not feel like an after thought and an attempt at using land that was purchased that now doesn't have a purpose. Don't like the idea of finding space near the square? What about adding onto the Wellness Center, creating a mind, body, soul community space. Give new vision to the Wellness Center, rather than being an old YMCA that didn't work. Please use this as an opportunity to knock it out of the park for the community, not another botched project that leaves everyone scratching their heads and wondering how did this happen. This community deserves to be heard. We deserve to have thoughtful, strategic and beautiful projects get completed the RIGHT way. We deserve better!
Leave the current library alone, where it is, and how it is. As tax paying citizens of Indianola, we are not in a position to fund one more thing. Leave it be.
Explain how surrounding lots and streets will be with a new building plopped down in the middle of an eyesore. You have to also address the this space is likely a toxic land site. Looking at the design - you cannot ignore what will be surrounding and remain in place.
Different site
Change location to Activity Center since it is already there. No reason to spend money on new land or building. There is land there if needed to build onto and a large parking lot area. This is a very nice facility. Use it.
Indianola is always complaining they don't have any money. Use what we have!

Since they are moving activities to the Wellness Center which I feel is important to utilize that building for more since it has cost the City so much to support.
Maybe a small coffee shop?
Make sure we are building for future growth, not just for what we need today. So many libraries build a project and immediately outgrow it. We know how hard this project has been to keep moving forward, lets plan for growth now.
Improve the proposed location.
Safety for bad weather

Any other feedback on this design?

Open House Attendees:

Go with the largest plan or bigger. No one is ever going to say “we have too much space”. The only possible regret will be going too small.
I like libraey 1a. I think the extra meeting spaces will be great. Giving the ability to host two library events will be great. Having the space for community groups to use seems very nice. I also like the out door space created to the north of the entrance in this design.
I am concerned the new facility is going to be outgrown too quickly after right sizing. Is this being built in a way that would allow for additions later on once the future growth areas are already added? How quickly are we projected to outgrow the new facility?
Very concerned about the book drop as well with that curved turn - is it actually able to be a drive up book drop? (The Waukee library one is also curved and you have to get out of the car to reach the book drops due to their building design)
Thank you for all your work on this! I am so excited for the community to be able to benefit from a new library!
Did not hear at the open house any words about how the new library would improve the quality of education.
Thank you to the people who were on the committee.
Flow of walk through. Making it clear where each interest is
thank you for working on this. we need a bigger library!
I really like the look of the larger size building and the potential for activities and programs that it would offer. would love to know about any potential fundraising efforts that could assist with costs.

Consideration of community needs and the overall design plan is a well conceived approach and hopefully, success will follow.
Proposed location is perfect.
Not sure location (new location "feels" conducive as doesn't feel like part of "city". Will kids go?? Will elderly access?
The director's office should be bigger!
Alternative sites need to be considered. There are many possibilities. -Build something west of the current building, where the current parking lot and lawn is. A parking lot counts as unused land, and we can make choices on how to lose the fewest trees and which trees. Design the building so that its east side can added to; then when the current building is demolished build the rest. -Acquire the old Fareway building and parking lot. -Acquire some of the unused building and lots on the square. The lots are narrow, but maybe two or three that are connected could be found. Or maybe our one library could be housed in several buildings that are discontinuous but close to each other. -Get a large room in the new courthouse. A courtroom, say, and a new courtroom could be set up in a nearby building. The courthouse is such an ugly building, but without any change to its outside appearance it would become beautiful if it had a library inside it. If it were a two story building it would need an elevator for handicapped patrons UNLESS the upper story were for storage and offices and staff use, yielding the entire lower story for the public areas. I want a beautiful building with a peaked roof. Maybe a full scale copy of the shell of the Methodist church? Oh, and can there be gargoyles? I ain't no architect or engineer, but see the other side for how we might use the current site. [Hand drawn map submitted with an outline of a new library building and outdoor features, such an outdoor courtyard as part of the children's area and the elimination of the parking lot].
Ceiling heights too tall
Sustainability should be a priority.
Will there be a clear and safe connection to the bike trail and bike parking?
Continue to think toward the future and keep in mind how our community growing and how technology is impacting out society and we do/do not use "3rd spaces". Incorporate noise cancellation technology/white noise.
I'm very supportive of a new library building for Indianola. And I believe that ff the community is going to go to the effort and expense of building a new library, then we should be all in on a library that represents the community we want to see. We should build for the future and make the library

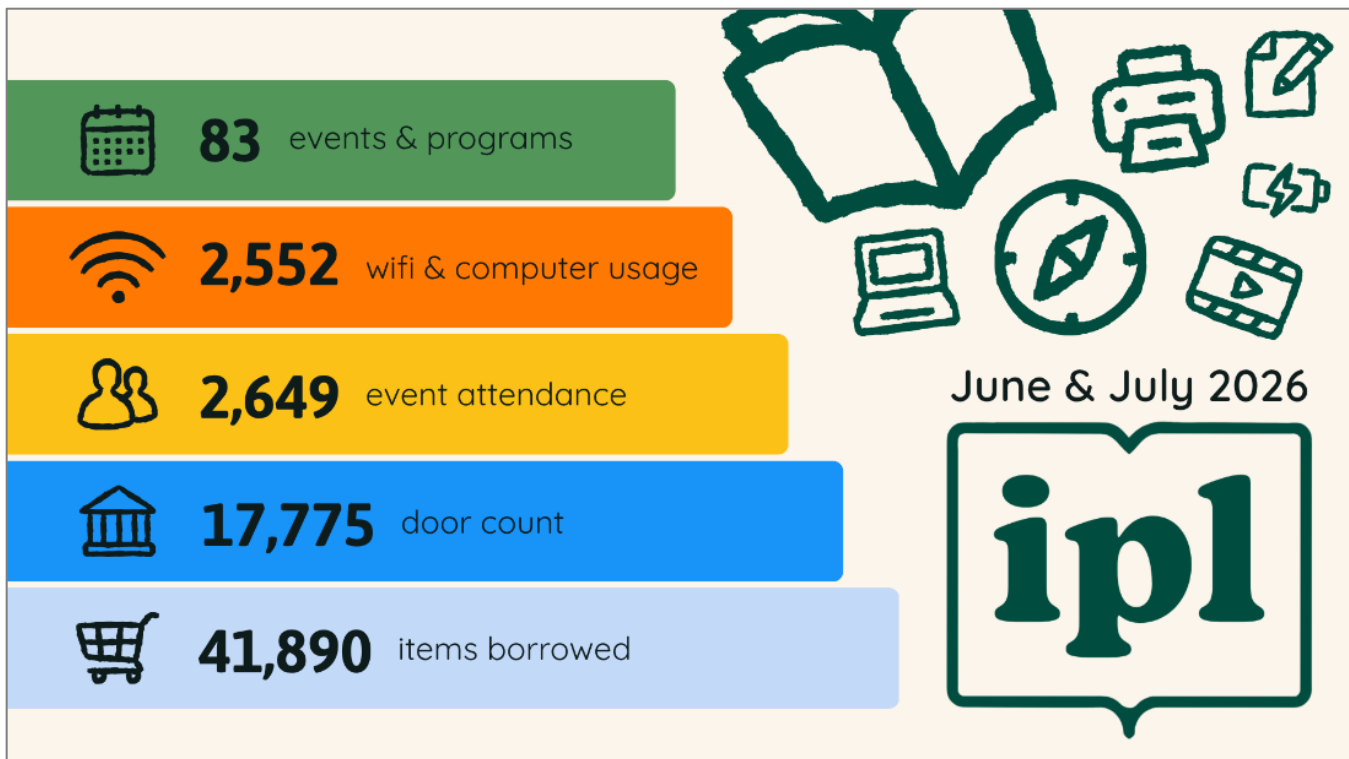
a central hub for the community. There's not a doubt in my mind that if it is built, it will be well used and beloved by the community.
I was wondering why there was a kitchen in each design I was informed they would be utilized for community events. That would be lovely to have. :)
I don't see any bike parking. It would be nice to have lots of bike parking that is safe to use and easy to monitor from inside. Also scooter and E-bike parking.
Concerns with amount of windows - additional heating/cooling costs? Cleanliness of windows? Not a fan of the indoor courtyard.
concerns re: exterior glass west wall: 1. glare from sun in late afternoons/evenings 2. impact level, strength, safety of glass
I think 1(a) is the best design but 1(b) is a close 2nd while saving some money. I feel like the last option isn't worth the minimum cost savings.
If started today - how long would it take and price would have to include lot
The library should be a fixture of our community that showcases our concern for a hometown that loves its citizens. This is a place more people visit than a City Hall. Would like to see the library in a residential area.
"Future space/growth" never happens. If Norwalk can do a \$40 M - Indianola can do \$21 M (altho understand Norwalk's more favorable economic situation)
My key concerns are durability, maintainability and expandability. No structure lasts forever, but a facility which is economical to maintain will last longer than one which isn't.
Glad to see progress being made. Eager to see building begin!
I like the amount of windows and modern design
It's beautiful, I would be interested to see daylight study or sun study on the large glass volume
Too much square footage for our population. Don't see Indianola growing.
Needs fireplace :) and possibly coffee shop
Love all the windows. Goode mix of open spaced and closed off private areas Coffee area would be great
More towers and a slide
I like the outside look.
How will this be paid for?
Best of luck!

I think it looks awesome and I'm happy
All images are warped and hard to comprehend.
It looks great.
My biggest concern is the location. It feels like a site was selected for convenience of development rather than convenience for the community. It should be at the heart of a community and become a destination, not just another out of the way stop between picking up groceries and home.
More into looks than functionality.
It will take years to redevelop the proposed building site and this area of town, are there plans for the Co-op to move any time soon? The bike trail is not a selling point for location as the bike trail isn't even completed all the way through town. Yet another project that was not done the right way. Not able to enhance the community and serve as not only an amenity but also a form of tourism that would benefit Indianola.
Let's work together as a community to do something great!!
Leave the current library alone, where it is, and how it is. As tax paying citizens of Indianola, we are not in a position to fund one more thing. Leave it be.
Start explaining where the money is coming from. Once again, you cannot ignore or just spring a decision made by council on voters. There has been little communication on the library - it's a big question in social circles with no answers.
Design is fine, but proposed site leaves much to be desired, particularly access (young children) and looking at the elevators and farm equipment is hardly a thing of beauty. And speaking with one of the reps I was told no consideration has been given to the cost and logistics of the remediation of the soil. Seems unclear whether site preparation is included in cost estimates.
Take care of what we have and utilize what is available rather than desire for new designs.
It looks incredible. I don't love the location but it seems to be our best option. Eventually once that urban area is developed a bit more, it'll be great.
The location would be best for the community to be either added on to the wellness center or centered around the Square. The proposed location by the co-op, commercial area, and heliport are not appealing for a new multimillion dollar project in our community. Why create a new center vs further developing an area we have some new development, though not complete.
Less glass, more handicap parking

Director's Report

August 2026

Summer By The Numbers



Book Lover's Day Proclamation

At the Aug. 3rd Indianola City Council meeting, Mayor Steve Richardson proclaimed August 9th Book Lovers Day, presenting the proclamation to the library staff.

National Balloon Classic

I was part of a team of City leaders working the ticket gate at the National Balloon Classic on Saturday, Aug. 1.

We stayed busy well into the evening, despite the flight cancellation due to high winds.



Circulation | July 2026



Summary

	July 2026 ▼	Print ▼	Special ▼	Digital ▲
	20,578	11,662	3,688	5,228

Print	July 25	July 26	Change	FY26	FY27	Change
Adults	3,916	3,831	▼ -2%	3,916	3,831	▼ -2%
Teens	661	600	▼ -9%	661	600	▼ -9%
Children	7,399	7,231	▼ -2%	7,399	7,231	▼ -2%
Total	11,976	11,662	▼ -3%	11,976	11,662	▼ -3%

Special	July 25	July 26	Change	FY26	FY27	Change
DVDs & Video Games	2,251	2,098	▼ -7%	2,251	2,098	▼ -7%
Magazines	119	147	▲ 24%	119	147	▲ 24%
Audiobooks	125	69	▼ -45%	125	69	▼ -45%
Games & Puzzles	943	981	▲ 4%	943	981	▲ 4.0%
Library of Things	78	159	▲ 104%	78	159	▲ 104%
STEM Kits	209	234	▲ 12%	209	234	▲ 12%
Total	3,725	3,688	▼ -1%	3,725	3,688	▼ -1%

Digital	July 25	July 26	% Change	FY26	FY27	% Change
Ebooks	1,883	1,764	▼ -6%	1,883	1,764	▼ -6%
Audiobooks	2,445	2,839	▲ 16%	2,445	2,839	▲ 16%
Libby Magazines	373	408	▲ 9%	373	408	▲ 9%
Kanopy Videos	305	217	▼ -29%	305	217	▼ -29%
Total	5,006	5,228	▲ 4%	5,006	5,228	▲ 4%

Totals	July 25	July 26	% Change	FY25	FY26	% Change
	20,707	20,578	▼ -1%	20,707	20,578	▼ -0.6%

Programs | July 2026



Summary

July Attendance ▼	Adult ▲	Teen ▼	Children's ▼
1,007	253	94	660

Program Attendance	July 25	July 26	% Change	FY26	FY27	% Change
Adults	137	132 ▼	-4%	137	132 ▼	-4%
Teens	115	94 ▼	-18%	115	94 ▼	-18%
Children	816	660 ▼	-19%	816	660 ▼	-19%
Library Meetings	17	121 ▲	612%	17	121 ▲	612%
Total	1,085	1,007 ▼	-7%	1,085	1,007 ▼	-7%

Number of Programs	July 25	July 26	% Change	FY26	FY27	% Change
Adults	10	12 ▲	20%	10	12 ▲	20%
Teens	5	5 ↔	0%	5	5 ↔	0%
Children	21	19 ▼	-10%	21	19 ▼	-10%
Total	36	36 ↔	0%	36	36 ↔	0%

Meeting Room Usage	July 25	July 26	% Change	FY25	FY26	% Change
Meeting Attendance	0	0 ↔	0%	0	0 ↔	0%
Number of Meetings	0	0 ↔	0%	0	0 ↔	0%

Services| July 2026

User Statistics	July 25	July 26	% Change	FY26	FY27	% Change
New Library Cards	110	91	▼ -17%	110	91	▼ -17%
Door Count	8,291	7,940	▼ -4%	8,291	7,940	▼ -4%
Number of Home Deliveries	6	5	▼ -17%	6	5	▼ -17%
Home Delivery Checkouts	89	84	▼ -6%	89	84	▼ -6%
ILL Items Loaned	35	30	▼ -14%	35	30	▼ -14%

Computer Usage	July 25	July 26	% Change	FY26	FY27	% Change
Public Computers	323	401	▲ 24%	323	401	▲ 24%
WiFi Sessions	713	851	▲ 19%	713	851	▲ 19%
WiFi Unique Users	321	334	▲ 4%	321	334	▲ 4%
IPL App Launches	2,606	2,864	▲ 10%	2,606	2,864	▲ 10%
App Page Views	3,562	3,624	▲ 2%	3562	3,624	▲ 2%