Leach Public Library
August 27, 2026

Judy Oren, Library Board President, called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members Present: Judy Oren, Simone Sandberg, Jeena Kompelien, Jason Goltz
Members Absent: Andrew Davidson
Also Present: Josh Bartels and Melissa Bakken, Leach Public Library Director

Conflict of Interest: None
Additions to the Agenda: Corrected date of next meeting

Jason Goltz (1st term) took the Oath of Office for his position on the Library Board.

A motion to accept the July 2026 minutes with five corrections was made by Ms. Sandberg and seconded by Mr. Goltz. The motion passed.

1. **Friends of the Library-** The next meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2026 at 10:00 am. The Chocolate Chocolate Day Book Sale is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2026, from 12:00-5:00 pm. The book sale will continue through Saturday business hours. They will be looking for volunteers to help with set up.

2. **Physical Plant-**
    - The front step replacement project exceeds $25,000.00. Therefore, we need to have a scope of work from Public Works and advertise for sealed bids. In addition, there is no clear schematic of the stairs available, so Foss Architects will be contacted. Ms. Bakken did locate a previous set of plans from 2009, but only a repair was completed, not reconstruction.
    - A grant opportunity became available through the North Dakota State Historical Society's Heritage Preservation Fund. Applications are due by October 16, 2026 and need to include a full scope of work with photos. This grant is a dollar-for-dollar opportunity, with a maximum of $50,000.00. The NDSHS has $150,000.00 to award throughout the entire state for properties listed on the Historical Register.

3. **Library Operations-**
    - The July Monthly Report was reviewed and showed $482 brought in from fees. The July Expenditure Report was reviewed and showed the gazebo step repair. Ms. Bakken noted she plans to cancel the Grand Forks Herald.
    - The board reviewed the final numbers for the Summer Reading Program and Library Day at the Zoo. This year's Summer Reading Program had a total of 128 registered participants and 45 scheduled programs. Library Day at the Zoo was rescheduled from its original date and had an overall participation of 70 people.

4. **Old Business-**
    - Ms. Bakken is continuing to work on accessing the Wells Fargo safe deposit box.

- Immanuel Lutheran Church donated a wheelchair. Ms. Bakken will look into finding a foot support solution. Ms. Sandberg noted that this foot support purchase should be brought up to the Friends of the Library.
- The board reviewed an updated meeting calendar with a list of members and terms. One correction was made.

5. New Business-

- The library received a request from Brian Ness to use library property to place large sculptures for sale that are too large for the Red Door Art Gallery. The board decided to deny this request due to license and liability concerns.
- Ms. Sandberg spoke with Katie from the Chamber of Commerce office. Yearly membership costs $180. However, Katie offered free membership in exchange for use of some library resources. For example, during the Chamber's Chalkfest event, they used the library's water and lawn to set up an area for a misting machine. Jason made a motion to explore more with the Chamber and possibly make an arrangement. Jeena seconded. Ms. Sandberg will talk further with Katie at the Chamber.
- Ms. Bakken sent a letter on August 7, 2026 to terminate service with Vestis effective September 15, 2026. She has ordered new rugs and dispensers. Going forward, supplies will be purchased through Steins, Inc.
- The preliminary budget hearing for 2027 is set for the September 21st City Council meeting.
- Each board member received a form for the Annual Review of the Director. Members will individually fill out a form and then stay after September's meeting to complete the evaluation together.
- Ms. Bakken noted great attendance at the NDSCS Block Party. Two door prize opportunities were both won by NDSCS students. Extra Summer Reading Program books were distributed as well.
- Ms. Bakken and Mr. Bartels presented a new library program, Dungeons & Dragons. Starting in September, two classes (one for ages 10-16 and one for ages 16+) will meet once a month. A motion was made by Jason to spend $55 from the library's budget to purchase adventures for each class and see if Friends of the Library will provide reimbursement. Ms. Sandberg seconded. The adventures should last 1-2 years.
- Fall hours, including Saturdays from 10:00-2:00, will begin on September 12, 2026.
- Ms. Kercher plans to have a table set up with crafts and prizes at the Classic Car Show on September 10, 2026.
- Odin is providing new databases that will be listed on our website once they are available. Also, the Odin Catalog appearance will change after Labor Day.

Ms. Oren adjourned the meeting at 4:50 pm.

The next board meeting is scheduled on Thursday, September 24, 2026 at 4:00 pm.