HERMISTON LIBRARY BOARD

Regular Meeting July 22, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:01, with Lisa Depew, Casey Hinkley, Lori Davis, Erick Peterson of the Library Board. Also present was Mark Rose, Library Director and Jeff Kelso City Council.

2. READING OF MINUTES

A. The minutes of the May 27, 2026, meeting were approved as presented.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Library By-Laws

General questions about the need for change were brought up and addressed. Article III section 4 can those who might benefit from this change be allowed to vote on the issue. Mr. Rose indicated that he had thought the term limits may have been something from state law, however, city legal counsel has indicated no such law exists. Article V section 5 brings the Library Board into line with the City Council which also uses Rosenbergs Rules of Orde rather than Roberts Rules of Oder. Article VII section 5, which addressed the issue of book challenges, the correct means of addressing this issue is through library policy and procedure which is a role of the library board. Redundancy is not clarity, this created confusion. It was also noted that Zaira Sanchez, though not present expressed her agreement with the changes recommended.

The board approved the by-laws as presented.

B. Approval of Strategic Plan

The strategic plan presented represented the work of the community committee as well as library staff. The plan is intended to serve as a guide to the library for the next 3 years and can be modified as needed. In the second goal part B the goal to acknowledge the LGTBQ+ community caused some questions. As an issue with strong feelings from all directions the director will ask additional questions of other libraries and to develop a better sense of the use of these materials.

The board approved the strategic plan with grammatical corrections.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of Officers

Lisa Depew volunteered to continue as Chair, Zaira Sanchez was nominated to serve as Vice Chair. Voting was unanimous.

6. LIBRARIANS REPORT

A. The annual Statistical Report shows the return of strong numbers in a variety of categories. It is requested that the use of the Maker Space and other new rooms be tracked for possible reporting. It was recommended that this be done informally until good patterns and effective reporting can be developed.

B. The director's report included an account of an alarm at the children's desk being triggered. The Police responded prepared for a hostage situation that was not happening. Mr Rose exited the building to find the police ready and worked with them to downgrade the response. The alarm had been triggered by a child accidentally. To prevent this in the future Mr. Kelso offered some advice as his employer also has such alarms at school front desks. This experience will be reviewed with staff and is now a real event that we can draw on as we discuss building security.

7. OTHER MATTERS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

8. NEXT MEETING

A. September 23, 2026

9. ADJOURN

A. The meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.