

**Whiting Public Library
Regular Board Meeting
May 13, 2025**

Board Members Present:

Walter Wachel, President
Ashley Sudar, Vice President
Amy Holmes, Treasurer (arrived 6:08 p.m.)
Mary Lu Cowley, Secretary
Daniel Catlin, Board Member
Scot Kokandy, Board Member
Estela Waszak, Board Member

Board Members Absent:

Guests:

Darren Schretter, Studio GC (arrived 6:38 p.m.)

Others:

Montserrat Inglada, Director
Laura Lopez, Recording Secretary

Public:

Christina Hammermeister, 8014 Monroe, Munster, IN
Mary Kershner, 2108 Lincoln Ave., Whiting, IN

A notice of the Regular Board Meeting was sent to the Times on May 6, 2025. The notice was also posted at the Oliver Street and Ohio Avenue entrances on May 8, 2025.

Mr. Wachel, President, called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – April 8, 2025

Ms. Sudar moved:

THAT the minutes of the April 8, 2025 Regular Board Meeting be approved as submitted.

SECONDED by: Mr. Kokandy

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Approval of the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting – April 22, 2025

Mrs. Cowley moved:

THAT the minutes of the April 22, 2025 Special Board Meeting be approved as submitted.

SECONDED by: Ms. Sudar

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Report from Board President and other Board Members

None.

Director's Report

√ Upon review, all expenditures were approved for April 16, 2025 - May 15, 2025.

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√ Per fire Chief Harbin, only alarms in renovated areas will need to be updated; existing alarms in untouched spaces will not require modifications. Additionally, StudioGC had their electrical engineer inspect the alarm panel. No updates are necessary at this time.

√ Gluth Brothers have been contacted to repair a piece of fascia hanging on the Oliver Street side. They will inspect other spots on the roof Mike has concerns about.

√ JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates), a federally funded program for high school students to gain work experience would like to partner with the library. JAG would handle payroll and paperwork for the students. The library would verify their hours worked.

√ The new website is now complete with updated information and several new features including:

- Carousels showcasing new materials
- Online library card applications
- Request form for new materials
- Improved calendars and quick links

√ Both the in-house display and online presence of our Library of Things has been updated for a fresh look.

√ Our application and interview with Senior Planet were successful and the library has been approved for the program. Benefits include:

- Free staff training
- 250+ free technology classes for seniors
- Complete curriculum and materials provided at no cost to the library

Personnel

Mr. Kokandy moved:

THAT the library hire legal counsel for employee matters.

SECONDED by: Ms. Sudar

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Mr. Kokandy moved:

THAT the request submitted by an employee to opt out of health insurance coverage in exchange for cash or other benefits be denied.

SECONDED by: Mrs. Cowley

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) Indiana

Ms. Sudar moved:

THAT the Board approve the library's participation in the Indiana JAG workforce program.

SECONDED by: Mrs. Holmes

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

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Building Renovation Update

Mr. Kokandy moved:

THAT the renovation bid be awarded to Gariup Construction, base bid of \$1,149,000.00.

SECONDED by: Mrs. Holmes

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Adjournment

Mr. Kokandy moved:

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

SECONDED by: Mrs. Cowley

ACTION: Meeting Adjourned 7:11 p.m.

Walter Wachel, President

Ashley Sudar, Vice-President

Mary Lu Cowley, Secretary

Amy Holmes, Treasurer

Daniel Catlin, Board Member

Scot Kokandy, Board Member

Estela Waszak, Board Member

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Lopez

Reviewed by: Mary Lu Cowley, Board Secretary