

**Whiting Public Library
Regular Monthly Meeting
August 12, 2025**

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Guests:

Rachael DeLuna, 1475 Ohio Ave., Whiting, Indiana
Mary Kershner, 2108 Lincoln Ave., Whiting, Indiana

Others:

Montserrat Inglada, Director
Laura Lopez, Recording Secretary

Public:

A notice of the Regular Board Meeting was uploaded to the Library's website on August 7, 2025. The notice was also posted at the Oliver Street and Ohio Avenue entrances on August 7, 2025.

Mr. Wachel, President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session – July 8, 2025

Mrs. Cowley moved:

THAT the minutes of the July 8, 2025 Executive Session be approved as submitted.

SECONDED by: Ms. Suda

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – July 8, 2025
tabled

Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session – July 21, 2025

Mrs. Holmes moved:

THAT the minutes of the July 21, 2025 Executive Session be approved as submitted.

SECONDED by: Mr. Kokandy

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Report from Officers and Other Board Members

(none)

Director's Report

The School Superintendent and Principals were contacted last week to inform them about the renovation project and the resulting limited capacity in the library after school. It was requested that they notify parents and students and explore alternative arrangements for students who need a place to wait before activities or pickup.

The current people count data has some limitations:

The Adult Department counter data is unavailable since the front entrance is closed and patrons are using the elevator and back stairs. This affects the accuracy of the data collected from the Children's Department counter.

Renovation Updates

1. Material Samples: Gariup has submitted samples for bathroom and stair materials. These are available in the director's office and will also be brought to the board meeting.
2. Construction Issues:
 - o During ceiling removal in the former local history room, concerns arose about an old wall/roof section.
 - o Two support beams in the downstairs area raised questions after abatement and demolition.
 - o Studio GC and the structural engineer assessed these issues on July 23.
3. Adult Bathrooms:
 - o Work will start in Phase 1, but must be completed in Phase 2 due to abatement and plumbing complications.

Personnel

Tabled

Policy, Travel Expenses (amended)

Mrs. Holmes moved:

THAT the Travel Expenses Policy be approved as amended.

SECONDED by: Mrs. Cowley

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Resolution, Transfer of Rainy Day Funds

Mrs. Holmes moved:

THAT the resolution to Transfer Rainy Day Funds signed at the July 8, 2025 Regular Board Meeting be rescinded.

SECONDED by: Mr. Kokandy

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Resolution, Appropriation of Rainy Day Funds

Mr. Kokandy moved:

THAT the Board approve the appropriation of Rainy Day Funds in the amount of One Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars and 00/100 (\$1,800,000.00) for library renovations.

SECONDED by: Mrs. Holmes

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Notice to Taxpayers, 2026 Budget:

The Board reviewed the “Notice to Taxpayers” for the 2026 Budget. The library will be advertising the maximum levy of \$1,642,206. The State Budget Agency approved a growth quotient of 4% for 2026. The total Operating budget the director is recommending is \$1,565,435 while the budget for LIRF would be \$13,000.

Our annual meeting with DLGF field representative, Miranda Bucy, took place on Monday July 28, 2025, at which time she reviewed all budget forms.

Mr. Kokandy moved:

THAT the Notice to Taxpayers, 2026 Budget be submitted for advertisement on Gateway.

SECONDED by: Mrs. Cowley

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Free replacement library cards, National Library Card Sign-Up Month

Mrs. Cowley moved:

THAT during September, which is National Library Card Sign-Up Month, duplicate library cards will be issued free of charge.

SECONDED by: Ms. Sudar

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Internal Grievance Policy, update

Mr. Kokandy moved:

THAT the Internal Grievance policy be approved as amended.

SECONDED by: Mrs. Cowley

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Right of Grievance to the Board of Trustees Policy, update

Mrs. Cowley moved:

THAT the Right of Grievance to the Board of Trustees Policy be amended.

SECONDED by: Mr. Kokandy

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Cyber Security Policy

Tabled

Camera Policy, amended

Mrs. Cowley moved:

THAT the Camera Policy be approved as amended.

SECONDED by: Ms. Sudar

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Midwest Environmental Consulting Services, Inc.

Mr. Kokandy moved:

THAT the Board approve payment for services rendered in the amount of \$10,800.00.

SECONDED by: Mrs. Holmes

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Adjournment

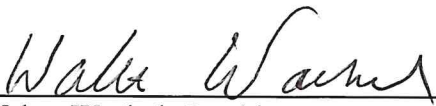
Mrs. Holmes moved:

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

SECONDED by: Mr. Kokandy

ACTION: Meeting Adjourned 6: 38 p.m.

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Walter Wachel, President


Ashley Sudak, Vice-President



Mary Lu Cowley, Secretary

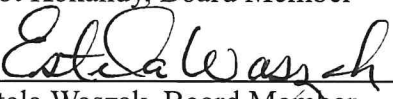
Amy Holmes, Treasurer

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Lopez

Reviewed by: Mary Lu Cowley, Board Secretary


Daniel Catlin, Board Member


Scot Kokandy, Board Member


Estela Waszak, Board Member