

**Whiting Public Library
Regular Monthly Meeting
October 14, 2025**

Board Members Present:

Walter Wachel, President
Ashley Sudar, Vice President
Amy Holmes, Treasurer
Mary Lu Cowley, Secretary
Daniel Catlin, Board Member
Scot Kokandy, Board Member
Estela Waszak, Board Member

Board Members Absent:

Guests:

Others:

Montserrat Inglada, Director
Laura Lopez, Recording Secretary

Public:

A notice of the Regular Board Meeting was posted at the Ohio Avenue entrance and posted on the library website on October 9, 2025.

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

Approval of the following minutes was made collectively:

Mr. Kokandy moved:

THAT the minutes of both the Executive Session and Regular Board meetings on September 9, 2025 be approved as submitted.

SECONDED by: Ms. Sudar

ACTION: Carried Unanimous

Approval of the following minutes was made collectively:

Mrs. Cowley moved:

THAT the minutes of the Executive Session on September 20, 2025, September 24, 2025, and October 7, 2025 be approved as submitted.

SECONDED by: Ms. Sudar

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Report from Board President

none

Director's Report

- The construction contract has been signed, and a copy has been submitted to Gateway for recordkeeping.

*Whiting Public Library Regular Board Meeting
October 14, 2025*

- Access to Libby has now been expanded to include all reciprocal borrowers at no additional cost to the library. We will begin promoting this update to patrons, highlighting that anyone with a Whiting Library card can now use Libby. This expansion is expected to increase digital circulation and overall usage.

Building Renovation Update

- There was a brief delay with the staircase installation as the structural engineer needed to verify some details. The staircase is now on track to be completed by the end of October.
- The new chandelier has been installed.
- Work on the new family bathroom on the lower level is temporarily paused until the upstairs plumbing is completed, as the crew needs to punch through the ceiling for the new plumbing lines. A delay with the tile delivery also pushed back the timeline. Both bathrooms are expected to be finished by the end of October.
- The new outdoor book drop was installed by Mike, providing a more convenient option for patrons to return materials after hours.
- Phase II of the renovation is now scheduled to begin the first week of November. A plan has also been developed to address the seepage issues in the bathrooms, which is caused by the outside planters.

2026 Budget Adoption

Mrs. Cowley moved:

THAT the board approve the 2026 budget as presented.

SECONDED by: Mr. Catlin

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Rothschild Agency, Renewal of building insurance

Mrs. Cowley moved:

THAT the Board approve the commercial insurance policy renewal (10/27/25 to 10/27/26) with Property-Owners, at an estimated cost of \$17,600.50.

SECONDED by: Mr. Kokandy

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Renewal of HRA

Mr. Kokandy moved:

THAT the employees' HRA for 2026 be renewed.

SECONDED by: Mrs. Holmes

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Midwest Environmental Consulting Services, Inc.

Mr. Kokandy moved:

THAT the payment for Asbestos Project Management & Air Quality Testing be approved in the amount of \$5,400.00

SECONDED by: Mrs. Holmes

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Gariup Construction, Renovation Contract

Ms. Sudar moved:

THAT the contract for the Library's renovation with Gariup Construction be approved.

SECONDED by: Mrs. Cowley

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Lumino Leadership, Contract

Mrs. Cowley moved:

THAT the contract with Lumino Leadership be approved.

SECONDED by: Mr. Kokandy

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Employee Disciplinary Form

Mr. Kokandy moved:

THAT be approved with changes as discussed.

SECONDED by: Mrs. Cowley

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

Improvement Plan

Mr. Holmes moved:

THAT the Improvement Plan be approved as currently submitted. It will be a living document that will be revisited and revised in the future, and be placed and kept on the agenda under Unfinished Business until further notice.

SECONDED by: Mrs. Cowley

ACTION: Carried Unanimously

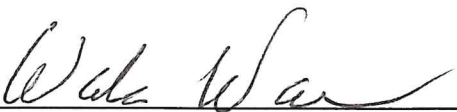
Adjournment

Mr. Kokandy moved:

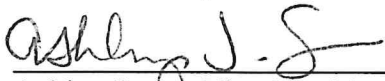
THAT the meeting be adjourned.

SECONDED by: Ms. Sudar

ACTION: Meeting Adjourned 6:50 p.m.



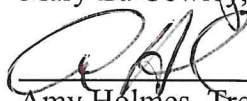
Walter Wachel, President



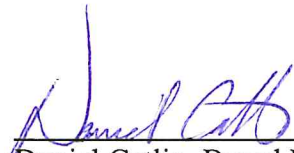
Ashley Sudar, Vice-President



Mary Lu Cowley, Secretary



Amy Holmes, Treasurer



Daniel Catlin, Board Member



Scot Kokandy, Board Member

Estela Waszak, Board Member

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Lopez