

**Whiting Public Library  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
November 11, 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 (arrived 6:15 p.m.)

**Board Members Absent**

Estela Waszak, Board Member

**Guests:**

**Others:**

Montserrat Inglada, Director  
Laura Lopez, Recording Secretary

**Public:** Debra Urbanik, 2031 Calumet Ave., Whiting, Indiana

**A notice of the Regular Board Meeting was posted at the Ohio Avenue entrance and posted on the library website on November 6, 2025.**

**Mr. Wachel, President, called the regular board meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.**

**Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – October 14, 2025**

**Mrs. Cowley moved:**

**THAT the minutes of the October 14, 2025 Regular Board Meeting be approved as submitted.**

**SECONDED by: Mr. Catlin**

**ACTION: Carried Unanimously**

**Report from Board President**

Mr. Wachel reported that Mary Kershner is no longer on contract. If her services are needed in the future, a new contract approval will be needed.

**Director's Report**

- The Carnegie Corporation of New York will be awarding a \$10,000 gift to all Carnegie Libraries nationwide in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The director has already completed and submitted the necessary paperwork, and checks are expected to be distributed in January 2026. Next year also marks the library's 120th anniversary, which presents a wonderful opportunity to connect both celebrations. The director proposes the formation of a planning committee composed of staff, Board members, Friends of the Library, and community representatives to review ideas and finalize plans. To build excitement, the director

recommends turning this milestone into a year-long celebration featuring special programs and community events that highlight the library's renovation and history. This would be a meaningful and impactful way to utilize the Carnegie funds in celebration of both the library and the community.

- Our service contract with Citron is scheduled to end in September 2026. To prevent auto-renewal, Citron requires written notice of cancellation at least three months prior to the renewal date.
- All requirements with Senior Planet have been completed, and we now hold the necessary licensing to order course materials at no cost. We also have full access to Senior Planet's special programming and classes designed for older adults.

### **Building Renovation Update**

- The arches and masonry work in the dome ceiling have been completed.
- Installation of tile and lobby flooring is currently underway.
- Waterproofing work within the planter area will begin soon.
- The new chandelier has been installed.
- Installation of the staircase is delayed 6 - 8 weeks out. Tentative schedule for completion is mid-December.

### **2026 Holiday Closings**

**Mrs. Cowley moved:**

**THAT the board approve the 2026 Holiday Closings, with the addition of the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 19, 2026.**

**SECONDED by: Ms. Sudar**

**ACTION: Carried Unanimously**

### **2026 Board Meeting Schedule**

**Mrs. Holmes moved:**

**THAT the Board approve the 2026 Board Meeting schedule as presented.**

**SECONDED by: Mr. Kokandy**

**ACTION: Carried Unanimously**

### **Employees' Health Insurance Renewal, 2026**

**Mrs. Holmes moved:**

**THAT the Board approve the director's recommendation for the employees' health insurance renewal with a 4.5% increase in premium with no rate changes to life, AD&D, Dental, and Vision. The plan renewal will become effective 1/1/2026.**

**SECONDED by: Ms. Sudar**

**ACTION: Carried Unanimously**

### **Employee wage increase, 2026**

**Tabled**

### **Studio GC, payment**

**Mrs. Cowley moved:**

**THAT the payment for Studio GC be approved in the amount of \$10,280.23.**

**SECONDED by: Mr. Kokandy**

**ACTION: Carried Unanimously**

**Request for Tuition Reimbursement**

Adrienne DeLuna has met all the requirements outlined in our tuition reimbursement policy and is due to receive the 1st installment of her tuition reimbursement for the Spring 2025 semester.

**Mr. Kokandy moved:**

**THAT the Youth Services Librarian be reimbursed the 1st installment (\$1684.03) for Spring 2025 tuition, per policy.**

**SECONDED by: Ms. Sudar**

**ACTION: Carried Unanimously**

**Gariup Construction, payment**

**Mrs. Holmes moved:**

**THAT payment for Gariup Construction be approved in the amount of \$13,794.00 for planter box waterproofing.**

**SECONDED by: Mr. Catlin**

**ACTION: Carried Unanimously**

**Construction Closing**

**Mr. Catlin moved:**

**THAT the library close for renovation construction/abatement on November 17, 18, and 19, 2025.**

**SECONDED by: Ms. Sudar**

**Adjournment**

**Mr. Kokandy moved:**

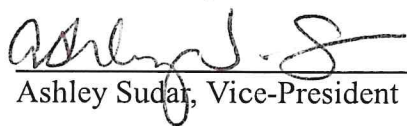
**THAT the meeting be adjourned.**

**SECONDED by: Ms. Sudar**

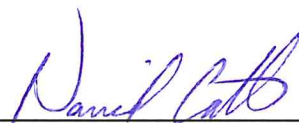
**ACTION: Meeting Adjourned 7:27 p.m.**



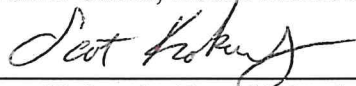
Walter Wachel, President



Ashley Sudar, Vice-President



Daniel Catlin, Board Member



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Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Lopez