

**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

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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

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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:

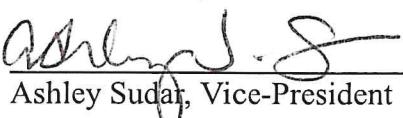
THAT the meeting be adjourned.

SECONDED by: Ms. Sudar

ACTION: Meeting Adjourned 7:27 p.m.



Walter Wachel, President



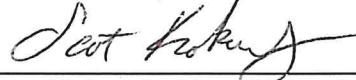
Ashley Sudar, Vice-President

Mary Lu Cowley, Secretary

Amy Holmes, Treasurer



Daniel Catlin, Board Member



Scot Kokandy, Board Member

Estela Waszak, Board Member

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Lopez