

La Porte County Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 17, 2025 at 5:00 PM CST

904 Indiana Avenue, La Porte, IN 46350

In attendance: Nicole Florek, Gina Alber, Amy Jackson, Tucker King

Absent: Bonnie Snider, Dara Jeffries, Anthony Novak—Legal Counsel

Also Present: Fonda Owens-Director, Ann Shaffer-Treasurer

Call to Order

Vice President Amy Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Public Forum

No comments were made by the public.

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of the June 19, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting
2. Financial Report

The agenda was amended to add a Resolution In Honor of Corey Campbell in the New Business section.

Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Nicole Florek and seconded by Tucker King. Motion carried.

Reports

Manager Reports

Toni Kester Bulger, Holly Trott and Dania Bocanegra presented highlights from their monthly reports.

Director Report

Director Fonda Owens shared the following updates:

Howmet Aerospace Foundation awarded a \$15,000 Career Explorations Take Flight grant to the Library.

Mobile Classroom will visit 8th grade students in the Exploring Careers Class and same students will visit the Exchange to use Makerspace equipment.

We are still waiting to hear from Unity Foundation and Healthcare Foundation on grant applications submitted for author visits.

The shade structure work will begin by the end of July. The replacement of gas mains on Indiana Ave and Maple Ave has gone on longer than expected. People have started using the library's parking lot as a street to avoid road construction work. Concerns about this have been shared with the City and with the firms doing the work.

The promotional video for Friends of the Library is in draft form with a completion plan by September. The goal is to share the video with the community to grow the Friends group membership.

The La Porte County Commissioners have appointed Jamie Novak to the Library's Board of Trustees to fill the position left open by Corey Campbell's resignation.

Legal Counsel

Attorney Novak was not present at the meeting.

Unfinished Business

Appointment to La Porte City Park Board

A motion was made by Nicole Florek and seconded by Tucker King to approve Karen Ellison as the La Porte County Public Library Board of Trustees' appointment to the La Porte City Park Board. The vote was taken and the motion carried.

New Business

Revision to Open Hours and Open Access

The goal of expanding access to the Library's buildings, meeting rooms and materials without increasing staffing levels within a new plan. Open Access will be available to community partners and organizations who need to use meeting spaces outside of normal business hours. As part of the plan, all weather lockers will be placed at three branches. Changes will be effective September 2, 2025.

A motion was made by Nicole Florek and seconded by Gina Alber to approve business hours at Rolling Prairie, Fish Lake, Kingsford Heights, Union Mills and Hanna Branches to 28 hours per week. Rolling Prairie, Fish Lake, Union Mills and Hanna Branches will have Open Access availability and lockers will be added to Rolling Prairie, Fish Lake and Hanna Branches. A vote was taken and motion carried.

Revisions to Collection Development Policy

Changes will strengthen the current areas of selection and digital collections within the policy.

Suggested Addition to the Digital Collections section

LPCPL Digital Local History Collections support research into greater La Porte County: Including local industry, historical people, events, locations, architecture, and local genealogy. These collections contain a variety of materials such as photographs, locally written and researched documents, newspaper articles, and oral histories. The copyright status of each item in this collection varies and though the Library makes every effort to determine and provide this information, any use of copyrighted works is at user discretion. Copyright guidance provided by the Library should not be considered legal advice.

Suggested Additions to the Managing the Collection section

Materials of local historical significance may be transferred to the Indiana Room Collection at the discretion of the Director. While these items may have previously been popular within the children's or adult collections, they are no longer considered to be of current popular interest to those audiences; however, they retain their local historical importance and should be kept for research and educational use.

AI-generated materials must meet the above selection criteria to be considered for inclusion in library collections. This includes, but is not limited to, human-guided AI, AI edited, or AI narrated works. Local creators are not given special consideration for AI-generated works

Motion was made by Gina Alber and seconded by Nicole Florek to approve the revisions presented to the Collection Development Policy. Vote was taken and motion carried.

Resolution for Corey Campbell

Vice President Amy Jackson read the Resolution In Honor of Corey Campbell. A motion was made by Tucker King and seconded by Nicole Florek to approve the resolution as read.

**La Porte County Public Library
Board of Trustees
Resolution
In Honor of Corey Campbell**

WHEREAS, Corey Campbell served with distinction on the Board of Trustees of the La Porte County Public Library from January 2020 to June 2025; and

WHEREAS, Corey Campbell was elected by his colleagues on the Board of Trustees as President (2022-2023); Secretary (2021 & 2024); and

WHEREAS, La Porte County Public Library has been fortunate to have Corey Campbell as a dedicated Board member who consistently demonstrated his belief in the value and importance of the Library to the La Porte Community; and

WHEREAS, Corey Campbell will be greatly missed by his colleagues on the Board of Trustees and by the many library community members who benefited from his efforts on behalf of the Library;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees does hereby recognize with great admiration and appreciation, the contributions and record of service of Corey Campbell to the Library, and the citizens of La Porte County.

Presented to the Board of Trustees of La Porte County Public Library, read in full, and adopted this 17th day of July, 2025

Approval and Payment of Claims—APV Batch July 17, 2025

Motion to approve the payment of claims made by Nicole Florek and seconded by Tucker King. Motion carried.

Questions or Comments from the Public

No questions or comments from the Public.

Questions or Comments from the Board

No questions or comments from the Board.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Tucker King and seconded by Nicole Florek. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:36pm.