

La Porte County Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Feb 16, 2023 at 5:30 PM CST
904 Indiana Ave., La Porte IN 46350

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-President Dara Jeffries called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

ROLL CALL

Present:

Members: Karen Ellison, Nicole Florek, Amy Jackson, Dara Jeffries, Rhonda Spence

Absent:

Members: Corey Campbell

One vacancy

Also present:

Fonda Owens - Director

Cindy Lane – Treasurer

Anthony Novak – Legal Counsel

PUBLIC FORUM

Vice President Dara Jeffries called for comments from the public. There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice-President Dara Jeffries call for a motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

Minutes of the January 19, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting

Minutes of the January 19, 2023 Board of Finance Meeting

Financial Report

Karen Ellison moved and Nicole Florek seconded to approve the consent agenda with the following correction to the minutes of the January 19, 2023 regular meeting as follows:

Adjournment section - correct the spelling of the last name of Dara Jeffries. The vote was taken and the motion carried.

REPORTS

Manager Reports

Pam Okosun, Community Learning Manager and Interim Public Services Manager, reported on updating the part-time Technology Team Lead position from 19 to 30 hours per week to help expand the opportunities for customers to receive technology assistance.

Toni Kester-Bulgar, Outreach Services Manager reported on scheduling visits to Boys and Girls Club sites, and utilizing the Mobile Classroom during the visits. Ms. Kester-Bulgar also talked about updates to the Library monitors and marketing enhancements that have been made.

Director

Ms. Owens reported that the Dolly Parton Imagination Library initiative kicked off in mid-February. A life size cardboard cut-out of Dolly is down in the Youth Services area to promote this service. Ms. Owens reported that 1,226 kids had already signed up for the Imagination Library even before the full marketing campaign was launched out. Many other organizations were shared about the program, including Duneland, WIMS radio, and other Libraries in our county. Dara Jeffries asked if there is a cap on the number of participants. Ms. Owens explained that the cost is based upon the number of participants. Of those registered, about 280 kids will get one year or less of the service based upon their age entering the program. Ms. Owens explained that Library staff have been talking about it for a while, and then our social media posts went out the week the program launched. Ms. Owens reported getting about 30 to 35 registrations per day. She reported that 17% of the eligible population registered within 48 hours.

Director Owens also reported that there is a bill in the Indiana Senate right now to initiate this program statewide but the state needs to figure out how much funding it would be able to provide. The Library has also received unsolicited donations directly for this program, and the Friends of the Library are very excited with the great response.

Ms. Owens reported that she attended the statehouse day on February 7th to monitor legislation related to Libraries. Senate Bill 12 on materials harmful to minors currently is out of judicial committee and going to the senate for a hearing. Updated language to the bill is more focused on school libraries rather than public libraries because most public libraries already have a reconsideration policy in place. Schools operate differently. This bill may require schools to have a similar reconsideration process as public libraries do now, with an opportunity to go to the school board if the response is not satisfactory to parent.

Ms. Owens reported that property tax credits legislation is also being considered in legislation as well House Bill 1167 which has to do with live streaming and archiving of meetings. If the bill passes the Library may be required to live stream Board meetings and then archive them for a period of time. Ms. Owens reported that with the new software OnBoard, this will already set up to interface with those needs.

Director Owens reported that she is working on the Annual Finance Report and Annual Library Report for the year ending 2022. Both reports are due March 1. Ms. Owens has experienced some issues with the Library annual report functionality, so working through those issues. She will link both reports within OnBoard.

Pam Okosun and Ms. Owens have been interviewing for an Assistant Public Services Manager and have hired a candidate.

Ms. Owens reported that the hand rails for the Indiana Avenue stairs are being power coated right now and will be installed by the deadline.

Ms. Owens and Aimee Meier, Software Integration and Training Professional are working on plans for updating library security cameras to be more efficient and produce a better quality picture. They are also looking at cameras in conjunction with the idea of having staff-less libraries which would allow customers to have limited access after-hours.

Ms. Owens has been in touch with the County Commissioners regarding the open Library Board position. She will follow up with the Commissioners to see when they will make an appointment.

Legal Counsel

Attorney Anthony Novak had no items to report on at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions in Honor of Past Board Members

Karen Ellison moved and Amy Jackson seconded to approve the resolutions to honor past board members Dave Decker, Marie Gilliland, and Michelle Shirk, as follows:

**La Porte County Public Library
Board of Trustees
Resolution
In Honor of Dave Decker**

WHEREAS, Dave Decker served with distinction on the Board of Trustees of the La Porte County Public Library from January 2019 to December 2022; and

WHEREAS, La Porte County Public Library has been fortunate to have Dave Decker 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, Dave Decker 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 Dave Decker 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 16th day of February, 2023.

**La Porte County Public Library
Board of Trustees
Resolution
In Honor of Marie Gilliland**

WHEREAS, Marie Gilliland served with distinction on the Board of Trustees of the La Porte County Public Library from August 2016 to December 2022; and

WHEREAS, Marie Gilliland served as a chair of the Nominating Committee (2018); and

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

WHEREAS, Marie Gilliland will be greatly missed by her colleagues on the Board of Trustees and by the many library community members who benefited from her 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 Marie Gilliland 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 16th day of February, 2023.

**La Porte County Public Library
Board of Trustees
Resolution
In Honor of Michelle Shirk**

WHEREAS, Michelle Shirk served with distinction on the Board of Trustees of the La Porte County Public Library from November 2019 to December 2022; and

WHEREAS, Michelle Shirk was elected by her colleagues on the Board of Trustees as Vice-President (April 2020 – March 2022); and served as a member of the Nominating Committee (2021); and

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

WHEREAS, Michelle Shirk will be greatly missed by her colleagues on the Board of Trustees and by the many library community members who benefited from her 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 Michelle Shirk 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 16th day of February, 2023.

The vote was taken and the motion carried.

Resolution for Non-Resident Fee 2023

Amy Jackson moved and Karen Ellison seconded to approve the Resolution for Non-Resident Fee for 2023 as follows:

RESOLUTION FOR NONRESIDENT FEE

La Porte County Public Library (“Library”)

WHEREAS, IC 36-12-2-25(c) requires that an individual nonresident fee be established for a local library card; and

WHEREAS, the minimum fee that the board may set under the statute is the greater of the following: (1) The library district's operating fund expenditure per capita in the most recent year for which that information is available in the Indiana state library's annual "Statistics of Indiana Libraries" or (2) Twenty-five dollars (\$25).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the nonresident fee is hereby set at \$100.00 for an individual nonresident card; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this fee will remain in effect until such time that the library board passes a new nonresident fee resolution.

DULY ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of the La Porte County Public Library at its regular meeting held on the 16th day of February, 2023 at which meeting a quorum was present.

The vote was taken and the motion carried.

APPROVAL AND PAYMENT OF CLAIMS ---APV BATCH THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023

Karen Ellison moved and Amy Jackson seconded to approve the payment of claims, APV batch February 16, 2023 as presented. The vote was taken and the motion carried.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Karen Ellison moved and Amy Jackson seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 PM. The vote was taken and the motion carried.