

**LORAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM  
LORAIN, OHIO**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, August 21, 2025

President McClelland called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. President McClelland asked if any Board members had a conflict with the agenda. No Trustees indicated a conflict with the business for this evening.

**Roll Call** – Ms. McClelland, yes; Ms. Ramirez, yes; Ms. Torres, yes; Mr. Ackerman, yes; Ms. Snipes-Martin, yes; Mr. Byrne, excused, Mr. White, yes

**#2025-044 Approval of June 12, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Torres moved, Ms. Ramirez seconded to approve the June 12, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.

**Roll Call for Resolution #2025-044: yeas, unanimous**

**#2025-045 Approval of June 20, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Torres moved, Ms. Ramirez seconded to approve the June 20, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes

**Roll Call for Resolution #2025-045: yeas, unanimous**

**#2025-046 Approval of June and July 2025 Fiscal Officer Reports**

Mr. Ackerman moved, Mr. White seconded to approve the June and July 2025 Fiscal Officer Reports.

Chief Fiscal Officer Angney mentioned that the OPERS Board of Trustees certified member and employer contribution rates for 2026. No changes were made (employee share is currently 10%, employer share is 14%). Chief Fiscal Officer Angney advised that he received a revised estimate for 2025 PLF receipts of just over \$133,000 that is reflected in the budget amounts for General Fund (101) from the Lorain County Auditor's Office. IT is having an issue pulling down transactional data processed through our Kiosks and IT has been in contact with Envisionware and is currently awaiting a fix on their end. The training for branch managers on the online requisition process available through accounting software has been completed and we are currently running live. This change will eliminate the use of current paper forms and allow for submitting supporting documentation electronically. We received notice that the credit card terminals at Main, South, North Ridgeville, and Domonkas were at end of life and required replacement. The new machines were ordered and have been replaced.

#### Action Items:

- Columbia Friends - \$900 (\$600 and \$300) to supplement program supplies budget.
- Donation Gift from Douglas and Kathy Petersen in the amount of \$2,500 to the Avon Branch with no restriction on use.
- Grant from City of Oberlin in the amount of \$4,000 for the Youth Climate Action Fund Micro-Grant, South Branch Fruit Trees.

#### Roll Call for Resolution #2025-046: yeas, unanimous

#### Report of the Director

Director Diamond-Ortiz provided the Fall Connections Program Guide and shared the book *Palaces for the People*, by Eric Klinenberg. Lorain County Reads will host Mr. Klinenberg at the Elyria Performing Arts Center on Thursday, September 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. and invited the Trustees to attend. Thanks to passionate advocacy from South staff, the City of Lorain has secured \$277,139 through NOACA's 2025 TLCI program to create an 11-foot-wide multi-use trail linking Oakwood Park and the South Lorain Library. This project includes ADA-compliant crosswalks to ensure safer, easier access for the whole community. Design and planning are already underway, with construction planned for 2028. Director Diamond-Ortiz introduced John Mitchell, Director of IT. Mr. Mitchell shared his background in technology and education.

#### Committee Reports

Finance, Audit and Properties Committee – Committee to meet on September 12, 2025

Library Services and Personnel Committee – None

Trustee Development and Nominating Committee – Committee met five candidates for the Trustee position and recommended Desiree A. Thompson.

#### Friends of the Library – June and July 2025

- In July, the Friends of the North Ridgeville Branch Library, inc. held a two-day pop-up book sale, raising over \$120.
- The Friends of the Columbia Branch Library, Inc. hosted a pop-up book sale at the Community Days festival, generating more than \$1,084. Additionally, a generous community member donated \$1,000 to cover expenses for their upcoming Holiday Bingo Bonanza on December 3, ensuring that all event proceeds will directly benefit the Friends.
- The Friends of the Avon Branch Library hosted a July Book Fair, switching to a donation-based model rather than fixed prices—a change that has received positive feedback from patrons. They are considering opening the book room more often as a self-serve, donation-based option. No events were held in August.

- The Friends of the Lorain Public Library, Inc. sponsor two summer *Seasonal Cook with City Fresh* programs, teaching patrons to cook with fresh, in-season produce alongside City Fresh staff.
- The Friends of the Lorain Public Library, Inc. are preparing for their September book sale, running Friday, September 12 – Thursday, September 18, with a preview evening on Thursday, September 11. The sale will feature a full room of diverse materials for all readers.

### Upcoming Events

- **Donate While You Dine – Columbia Branch Library**  
*10% of all food sales benefit the library.*
  - **September 3:** Suds Maguire's Bar & Grill, 5–10 p.m. (1270 W Bagley Rd., Berea, OH 44017)
  - **September 10:** Jo OJ Carloni's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria, 11 a.m.–9 p.m. (627 W Bagley Rd., Berea, OH 44017)
  - **September 17:** Culver's Strongsville, 4–8 p.m. (8464 Pearl Rd., Strongsville, OH 44136)
  - **September 24:** Samosky's Homestyle Pizzeria, 11 a.m.–8 p.m. (6738 Center Rd., Valley City, OH 44280)
- **Friends of the Lorain Public Library Book Sale**  
*Friday, September 12 – Thursday, September 18*  
Preview Night: Thursday, September 11, 5–7:30 p.m.
- **Friends of Avon Library Book Fair**  
*Saturday, September 13, 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.*
- **Friends of Domonkas Branch Library Book Sale**  
*Thursday, September 25 – Saturday, September 27*
- **Friends of North Ridgeville Branch Library Book Sale**  
*Friday, October 24 – Sunday, October 26*  
Preview Night: Thursday, October 23, 5–7:30 p.m.

Foundation of the Lorain Public Library System – Committee to meeting September 5, 2025

### Audience Participation

Michael McConnell, Branch Manager of the Main Branch provided an update on various programs, partnerships, events as follows:

- New set of machines in the create space opened in February
  - Women creating aprons for the Hungarian festival, made 30 personalized aprons over the span of several weeks
  - Jevon Terrance ACES program, worked with about 20 teens in the Create Space to create custom shoes
- Working with the city on a couple of projects
  - Sunset Pier –redevelopment project of the finger piers to improve the waterfront, better fishing, green space, pathways to downtown
- Participated in Better Block

- Event looking to promote boating and fishing in Lorain along with biking and pedestrian walkway/bikeway improvements
- LPLS participated in three big events this summer on the same day: Lorain Better Block, Second Saturday, and Sunset Fest at Lakeview Park in which we kept the Little Library on the Lake open until 8:00 p.m.
- Work with Lorain City Schools is beginning to bear fruit:
  - Meeting with school district leadership to solidify partnership
  - Planned visits from school library staff and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students
  - Planned 6th grade information literacy classes
  - Planned 9th grade overview of library resources, with a focus on culinary space and culinary program at the high school, create space and art students, etc.
  - Established relationships with art teachers
  - Scheduling outreach at every Lorain City Schools elementary school
- Community partner Gloria Buxton sent a letter thanking the library for participation in Art in the Park

Dear Mr. McConnell,

I am very appreciative for the partnership and participation of Discovery on the Go Staff, Helena and Ariana with Art in the Park, Enjoying Art in Green Spaces 2025. Helena and Ariana provided engaging, entertaining and professional interactions with all of the children. We had over 200 children this year which came from El Centro Summer Camp and Tower Educational Center. Also, we made site visits to each of the camps which included three schools, Garfield Elementary School, Steven Dohanos Elementary School and Tower Educational Center.

Just imagine the diversity and age groups these young ladies provided with engaging activities and professionalism for the children. Awesome job and congratulations to the both of them. I have provided pictures and the news article for your reference. Thank you to Kathleen who helped with the grant which provided art supplies for the camps. Thank Lorain Public Library for helping with making this a fun experience for the children and community.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria J. Buxton, M. Ed.

Art in the Park, Enjoying Art in Green Spaces 2025 (Beach Stories)

## New Business

### Consent Agenda

#2025-047 to #2025-051

#### #2025-047 Approval of Personnel Appointments in June and July.

APPOINTMENTS								
NAME	POSITION	DATE	PT/FT/ TEMP HOURS	GRADE/ STEP	SALARY	DEPT/ BRANCH	NEW HIRE/ CURRENT STAFF	REASON FOR CHANGE
Paige Varney	Student Library Aide	06/30/2025	PT 15	A	\$10.70	Avon	New Hire	Replaces Annette Najjar
Kelsey DeCoste	Interim Branch Manager	08/18/2025	FT 38	F	\$60,000	Columbia	Current Staff	*Replaces Joe Taylor temporarily
John Mitchell	Technology Manager	08/18/2025	FT 38	E	\$81,000	Main	New Hire	Replaces Dan Shell

\*Joe Taylor is on family leave from August 18<sup>th</sup> to November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#2025-048 RESOLUTION TO RESCIND A RESOLUTION PREVIOUSLY PASSED ON JUNE 20, 2025 REQUESTING THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD LAKE, LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO, TO REQUEST THAT THE LORAIN COUNTY AUDITOR CERTIFY THE CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD LAKE, LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE TO BE GENERATED BY A REPLACEMENT TAX LEVY; AND TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY THE QUESTION OF A REPLACEMENT LEVY FOR CURRENT OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE DOMONKAS BRANCH OF THE LORAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM OF THE LORAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM.

#2025-049 Resolution to Approve Acceptance of Donation - Columbia Friends - \$900 (\$600 and \$300) to supplement program supplies budget.

#2025-050 Resolution to Approve Acceptance of Donation Gift from Douglas and Kathy Petersen in the amount of \$2,500 to the Avon Branch with no restriction on use.

#2025-051 Resolution to Approve Acceptance of Grant from City of Oberlin in the amount of \$4,000 for the Youth Climate Action Fund Micro-Grant, South Branch Fruit Trees.

Ms. Torres moved, Mr. White seconded approval of all Consent Items #2025-047 to #2025-051.

**Roll Call for all Consent Items #2025-047 to #2025-051: yeas, unanimous**

#2025-052 Resolution to Accept Compensation Recommendations and Approve Salary Increases for Non-Bargaining Unit Staff Retroactive to April 1, 2025.

Mr. Ackerman moved, Ms. Torres seconded to open the floor for consideration of Resolution #2025-052. Library Services and Personnel Committee Chair Ramirez proposed additional discussion by the whole Board. President McClelland proposed an Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters Related to Compensation of Public Employees.

Ms. Ramirez moved, Ms. Torres seconded to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters Related to Compensation of Public Employees.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 5:31 p.m.

Reconvened at 5:42 p.m.

Mr. Ackerman moved, Ms. Torres seconded tabling #2025-052 Resolution to Accept Compensation Recommendations and Approve Salary Increases for Non-Bargaining Unit Staff Retroactive to April 1, 2025.

**Roll Call for Tabling Resolution #2025-052: yeas, unanimous**

#2025-053 Resolution to Recommend to the Lorain City School District, Board of Education for Appointment of Desiree A. Thompson for a term as Trustee for the period September 18, 2025, to December 31, 2027.

Mr. White moved, Ms. Ramirez seconded to Recommend to the Lorain City School District, Board of Education for Appointment of Desiree A. Thompson for a term as Trustee for the period September 18, 2025, to December 31, 2027.

**Roll Call for Resolution #2025-053: yeas, unanimous**

#2025-054 Discussion of Lorain Public Library Board of Trustees Officers for the remainder of 2025.

Ms. Torres moved, Mr. Ackerman seconded the Discussion of Lorain Public Library Board of Trustees Officers for the remainder of 2025.

President McClelland recommended Ms. Ramirez to assume the office of President, Mr. White to assume the office of Vice President, and Ms. Torres continue as Secretary of Lorain Public Library Board of Trustees Officers for the remainder of 2025.

Ms. Melissa Ramirez, President  
Mr. Chris White, Vice President  
Ms. Millie Torres, Secretary

**Roll Call for Resolution #2025-054: yeas, unanimous**

#2025-055 Resolution to Approve the Revision to the Board of Trustees Bylaws Article III Meetings, 1,1-3, Section 6, Virtual Meetings Policy (attached).

Mr. Ackerman moved, Ms. Ramirez seconded Approving the Revision to the Board of Trustees Bylaws Article III Meetings, 1,1-3, Section 6, Virtual Meetings Policy.

**Roll Call for Resolution #2025-055: yeas, unanimous**

#2025-056 Resolution to Approve the Revision to the Board of Trustees Bylaws Article II Membership, 1.1-2, Section 1 (attached).

Ms. Torres moved, Mr. White seconded the Resolution to Approve the revision to the Board of Trustees Bylaws Article II Membership, 1.1-2, Section 1.

**Roll Call for Resolution #2025-056: yeas, unanimous**

#2025-057 Resolution of Appreciation for Tiffany McClelland, Board President

Mr. Ackerman moved, Ms. Ramirez seconded the Resolution of Appreciation for Tiffany McClelland, Board President.

Newly appointed President Ramirez read the Resolution of Appreciation for Tiffany McClelland aloud and presented the certificate to Ms. McClelland.

**Roll Call for Resolution #2025-057: yeas, unanimous**

Other Agenda Items

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

  
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**President**

  
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**Secretary**