

**LORAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM  
LORAIN, OHIO**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, June 12, 2025

President McClelland called the meeting to order at 5:14 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, excused; Ms. Torres, yes; Mr. Ackerman, yes; Ms. Snipes-Martin, excused; Mr. Byrne, yes, Mr. White, excused

President McClelland requested to move Resolution #2025-040 and #2025-041 to the beginning of the meeting.

Mr. Ackerman moved, Ms. Torres seconded the request to move Resolution #2025-040 and #2025-041 to the beginning of the meeting.

**#2025-040 Resolution of Appreciation for Columbia Levy Committee**

**Resolution of Appreciation**

Whereas, the Lorain Public Library System benefits from the work and commitment of many; and

Whereas, the success of the 2025 Columbia Branch replacement levy was dependent on the dedication of the members of the Columbia Library Levy Committee and passionate volunteers; and

Whereas, a considerable amount of time and effort was committed to this endeavor; and

Whereas, their tireless efforts resulted in a victory for the Columbia Branch with the passing of the replacement levy; and

Therefore be it resolved, that the Lorain Public Library System Board of Trustees does publicly acknowledge committee members Ethel Schiemann and Christine Redovan, sign ambassador Brian Baker, letter writers Brenda Buchanan, Terry Byrne and Sue Baker, Friends of the Lorain Public Library, Inc, Friends of the North Ridgeville Library, Inc. Friends of the Domonkas Library and SEIU District 1199 for their generous donations and the many others who volunteered and lent their support and extends its sincere and deep appreciation on behalf of the board and staff.

Mr. Ackerman moved, Ms. Torres seconded to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Columbia Levy Committee.

President McClelland read the Resolution and Director Diamond-Ortiz and Director of Facilities Gerena thanked the Columbia group for all the hard work on helping with the Columbia Levy.

**Roll Call for Resolution #2025-040: yes, unanimous**

**#2025-041 Resolution of Appreciation – Kathy Niehm, Executive Assistant – Main Branch**

Mr. Byrne moved, Ms. Torres seconded to approve the Resolution of Appreciation – Kathy Niehm, Executive Assistant – Main Branch

President McClelland read the Resolution and Director of Facilities Gerena thanked Ms. Niehm for her work and dedication.

**Roll Call for Resolution #2025-041: yes, unanimous**

**#2025-035 Approval of May 15, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Ackerman moved, Ms. Torres seconded to approve the May 15, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.

**Roll Call for Resolution #2025-035: yeas, unanimous**

**#2025-036 Approval of May 2025 Fiscal Officer Report**

Ms. Torres moved, Mr. Byrne seconded to approve the May 2025 Fiscal Officer Report.

Chief Fiscal Officer Angney mentioned that the fieldwork on the 2024-2023 audit is progressing. There have been no significant issues to date. Modifications to add requisition preparation capabilities for all branch managers and assistant branch managers have been completed. Training on the system will be scheduled and the second phase will include working with our vendor to create a new workflow that would forward requisitions completed by assistant branch managers for their approval prior to entering the workflow. Chief Fiscal Officer Angney also mentioned the 2026 Tax Budget, the 2025 Lorain Public Library System Capital project that will be discussed later in the meeting and that we are still waiting on the distribution check from the Columbia Levy.

**Roll Call for Resolution #2025-036: yeas, unanimous**

## **Report of the Director**

Director Diamond-Ortiz shared a thank you card signed from the students of Lorain County Urban League Road to Success College Tour for sponsoring them to tour/visit colleges and universities: urban, rural public, private, and historically black institutions. Director Diamond-Ortiz provided an update on the state budget and shared that it is almost certain that state funding will be reduced, and public libraries across Ohio must wait until the bill is signed by the Governor to understand the full impact.

## **Committee Reports**

Finance, Audit and Properties Committee – None

Library Services and Personnel Committee – None

Trustee Development and Nominating Committee – None

Friends of the Library – COO Jennifer Winkler provided the following update:

- The Domonkas Friends celebrated a big win from their March book sale, which brought in \$669, with an additional \$26 in generous donations.
- Looking ahead, excitement is building for the Sheffield Lake Community Days Parade on July 17. Friends and library staff are thrilled to represent Domonkas and connect with the community during this festive summer event.
- In the spirit of giving back, the Friends of Domonkas Branch Library and the Friends of the Lorain Public Library voted to contribute funds toward the 2nd Annual Spooky Story Contest happening system-wide this fall. Their support helps keep this fun and creative tradition alive for all ages.
- The Friends of the Avon Branch Library hosted a pop-up Library Sale during the Summer Reading Kickoff Party and raised over \$80 in an hour and half. The Friends of the Avon Branch will host their next Book Fair on Saturday, July 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Foundation of the Lorain Public Library System – None

## **Audience Participation**

Danielle Coward, Branch Manager of the South Lorain Branch provided an update as follows:

The South Lorain Branch received a refresh to include the Culinary Kitchen, new paint and furniture indoors, outdoor musical flowers, and new Teen Space. The summer lunch program is going very well and South Branch is seeing an increase in patrons visiting the library.

## New Business

### Consent Agenda

#2025-037 to #2025-039

#### #2025-037 Approval of Personnel Appointments in May

APPOINTMENTS								
NAME	POSITION	DATE	PT/FT/ TEMP HOURS	GRADE/ STEP	SALARY	DEPT/ BRANCH	NEW HIRE/ CURRENT STAFF	REASON FOR CHANGE
Avery Barbee	PSP	06/09/2025	PT 25	UI	\$20.80	Main	New Hire	Replaces Beth Custer
Faith Brown	PSA	06/09/2025	PT 25	UH	\$18.73	North Ridgeville	New Hire	Replaces Steve Zivkovic
Sasha Solomon	PSP	06/23/2025	PT 25	UI	\$20.80	North Ridgeville	New Hire	Replaces Felicia Coffey
Felicia Coffey	Librarian	05/18/2025	FT 38	UI	\$23.61	North Ridgeville	Current Staff	Promoted to Librarian

#### #2025-038 Resolution to Approve Then & Now Payments

Approve a Then & Now payment to All One Health in the amount of \$4,900 for Staff Culture Study.

Check #	Amount	Date Paid
5896	\$4,900	June 6, 2025

#### #2025-039 Resolution to Approve the Adoption of the 2026 Tax Budget

Mr. Byrne moved, Mr. Ackerman seconded approval of all Consent Items #2025-037 to #2025-039

**Roll Call for Consent Items #2025-037 to #2025-039: yeas, unanimous**

**#2025-042 Resolution to Approve Authorizing the Library to enter into an agreement with RL Hill to provide general trades construction contractor services to the Library for the Main Library, South Lorain Branch, Domonkas Branch, and North Ridgeville Branch renovation projects not to exceed \$2,009,445.75.**

Mr. Byrne moved, Mr. Ackerman seconded to approve Resolution to Approve Authorizing the Library to enter into an agreement with RL Hill to provide general trades construction contractor services to the Library for the Main Library, South Lorain Branch, Domonkas Branch, and North Ridgeville Branch renovation projects not to exceed \$2,009,445.75.

Director of Facilities Gerena provided information regarding the bids between Infinity and RL Hill (Gilbane) and what products will be used as well as the warranty. President McClelland asked for clarification on the numbers/alternates and Chief Fiscal Officer Angney provided information on the numbers/alternates. Director of Facilities Gerena also mentioned that the company that will work on the Main Branch roof (Garland/Ferro) will install a ½ inch pitch for drainage.

**Roll Call for Resolution #2025-042: yeas, unanimous**

**#2025-043 Resolution to Approve Authorizing the Library to enter into an agreement with Garland to provide services for the flat roof at the Main Branch not to exceed \$1,053,508.**

Mr. Byrne moved, Ms. Torres seconded to approve Resolution to Approve Authorizing the Library to enter into an agreement with Garland to provide services for the flat roof at the Main Branch not to exceed \$1,053,508.

**Roll Call for Resolution #2025-043: yeas, unanimous**

Other Agenda Items

- Lorain and Sheffield Lake Levy Discussion

Director Diamond-Ortiz shared information regarding the Lorain and Sheffield Lake levies and the Trustees agreed that the Sheffield Lake Levy is top priority. Given the fact that it is likely that the ability for the Library to place a replacement levy on the ballot, starting in 2026, Director Diamond-Ortiz stated that it is in the best interest of the community to ask Sheffield Lake to place the replacement levy before the voters in November 2025. To do this, Sheffield Lake City Council will have to pass resolutions as an emergency to make the August 6, 2025, deadline for the Board of Elections. The Trustees agreed to schedule a Special Meeting to adopt a resolution requiring the necessity to place a levy on the ballot in Sheffield Lake.

Mr. Byrne moved, Mr. Ackerman seconded to approve moving forward to schedule a Special Meeting to pass the necessary legislation to place replacement levy on the ballot for November for the Domonkas Branch.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

  
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President

  
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Secretary