

**LORAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
LORAIN, OHIO**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 15, 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, excused; Ms. Torres, yes; Mr. Ackerman, excused; Ms. Snipes-Martin, excused; Mr. Byrne, yes, Mr. White, yes

#2025-030 Approval of March 20, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Byrne moved, Mr. White seconded to approve the March 20, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Roll Call for Resolution #2025-030: yeas, unanimous

#2025-031 Approval of March and April 2025 Fiscal Officer Reports

Ms. Torres moved, Mr. Byrne seconded to approve the March and April 2025 Fiscal Officer Reports.

Chief Fiscal Officer Angney mentioned that the North Ridgeville levy monies were received and that we should be receiving the Columbia levy money soon. CFO Angney discussed the natural gas contract that will be up for renewal in December 2025. There was some discussion with possibly looking at NOPEC for future natural gas contracts and CFO Angney will begin looking at electric rates in the fall with that agreement set to term in August 2026. Audit staff were on site last week to perform testing over the non-payroll and payroll disbursement cycles. Some board members may receive a fraud risk inquiry from the audit staff inquiring about your understanding of areas of risk and/or known or suspected fraud occurring during the audit period. CFO Angney shared that a grant was awarded from Lakeland Community Foundation Endowment fund, managed by the Community Foundation of Lorain County in the amount of \$500 for Arts in the Park.

Roll Call for Resolution #2025-031: yeas, unanimous

Report of the Director

Director Diamond-Ortiz shared that the Columbia replacement levy passed with 60% voting in favor and she congratulated everyone who worked so hard to help get the levy passed. We will have a resolution of appreciation for the Columbia levy committee at the June 12 meeting and will invite all of them to

attend. Director Diamond-Ortiz mentioned that Dan Shell, Director of Technology, will be retiring as of June 1, 2025, and the position of Technology Manager is posted online. The response to the call to action regarding library funding from our system was incredible. There were nearly 4,000 emails sent from our library patrons to our legislators over the course of 72 hours. The Senate will introduce their version of the state budget the week of June 2. Public libraries are anticipating some differences between the House and Senate versions which will need to be ironed out before the budget is approved by the end of June.

Committee Reports

Finance, Audit and Properties Committee – None – Committee to meet in June.

Library Services and Personnel Committee – None – Ms. Ramirez shared that the committee met on May 9 to hear updates on the job description and compensation study.

Trustee Development and Nominating Committee – Mr. White shared that the committee met on April 14, and they discussed the interview process for board members. They are reviewing questions for future trustee interviews.

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

- A heartfelt thank you to each of the Friends groups for treating their local branch staff to a special luncheon in honor of 2025 National Library Workers Day.
- The Friends of the Columbia Branch Library hosted a successful Nonprofit Night at Red Wagon Brewery on April 30, raising \$272 and spreading the word about Columbia's upcoming levy.
- The Friends of the Columbia Library proudly launched their first-ever art show, showcasing the talents of nearly a dozen local artists. Over 26 stunning pieces were displayed, featuring a vibrant mix of photography, watercolor, oil paintings, and more. The exhibit included artwork from elementary, middle, and high school students, as well as several talented adults. With such an enthusiastic response, plans are already underway to expand the event next year in partnership with the local arts community.
- The Friends of Columbia Branch Library hosted a Spring Book Sale.
- The Lorain Friends are wrapping up their second book sale of the year, with patrons enjoying the new layout—the entire sale now takes place on the second-floor mezzanine, offering a more streamlined browsing experience.
- Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Lorain Public Library, patrons enjoyed a powerful historical program featuring Dr. Curt Fields, the nation's leading Ulysses S. Grant living historian. His interactive storytelling brought the Appomattox Campaign vividly to life.
- The Friends of the Lorain Public Library also funded the purchase of an air fryer and food dehydrator for the Culinary Literacy Center. The dehydrator will take center stage in fall culinary programs, helping patrons explore new skills and flavors.
- The Friends of the North Ridgeville Branch Library, Inc. hosted another incredibly successful book sale this April, raising over \$3,100 to support library programs and services.

Foundation of the Lorain Public Library System – COO Winkler shared that the Foundation met on Monday, May 12 and they donated \$10,000 in support of the Summer Reading Challenge. The Foundation is also looking at additional fundraising at the new TopGolf in Avon in 2026.

Audience Participation

Anne Godec, Branch Manager of the North Ridgeville Branch provided an update as follows:

Introduced Kelsey Decoste as new Assistant Branch Manager. She recently served as the librarian working with youth and started in her new role in mid-March.

North Ridgeville returned to being a polling location this year. The primary election took place on May 6. Several people who came to vote that day had not been in the building since the renovation and remarked on how they appreciated the renovations. They planned to return to visit during our regular hours.

Staff attended the annual fishing derby held in partnership with North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Department. While it was a cold and rainy morning, about 40-50 children and their families were busy fishing. The largest fish caught was over 15 inches long. Participants appreciated the giveaways we had to offer.

Staff have been busy visiting the area schools to promote Summer Reading.

Finally, every quarter we host a community helpers storytime in partnership with Kiwanis. The Spring quarter's guest was a beekeeper. We received a lovely thank you note from one of the families:

"Dear North Ridgeville Branch Library,

I have to give you and the Kiwanis Club a warm thank you for Friday's Storytime! It was my first time at the branch & everyone was so welcoming! Thank you to Felicia, the Bee Man & the Kiwanis Club-I can't tell you how touched I was by the homemade pillow/book carrier!!

With appreciation,

Lisa Mulholland

P.S. My granddaughter took her nap with her new pillow sack-We all love it., Thank you! ❤️

New Business

Consent Agenda

#2025-032 to #2025-034

#2025-032 Approval of Personnel Appointments in March and April

APPOINTMENTS								
NAME	POSITION	DATE	PT/FT/ TEMP HOURS	GRADE/ STEP	SALARY	DEPT/ BRANCH	NEW HIRE/ CURRENT STAFF	REASON FOR CHANGE
Jalisa Goodwin	PSP	03/17/2025	FT 38	UI	\$20.50	Main	Current Staff	Replaces Miranda DeBose
Beth Custer*	PSP	03/24/2025	PT 25	UI	\$20.50	Main	New Hire	See Note
Joshua* Campbell	PSP	03/31/2025	PT 25	UI	\$20.50	Main	New Hire	See Note
Brittany Hayes	Assistant Manager	03/31/2025	FT 38	E	\$56,000	Main	Current Staff	Replaces Bethany Bonafield
William* Peterson	PSP	04/07/2025	PT 25	UI	\$20.80	Main	New Hire	See Note
Garret Mizway	PSP	04/21/2025	FT 38	UI	\$20.80	Main (Outreach)	New Hire	Replaces Debbie Parchem
Bethany Bonafield	Branch Manager	04/28/2025	FT 38	F	\$62,000	Main	Current Staff	Replaces John Guscott
Ariana Manos	PSP	04/28/2025	FT 38	UI	\$20.80	Main (Outreach)	New Hire	Replaces Anna Goodman
Jacqueline Hernandez	PSP	04/28/2025	PT 25	UI	\$20.80	South	New Hire	Replaces Jalisa Goodwin
Felicia Coffey	PSP	04/28/2025	FT 38	UI	\$21.64	NR	Current Staff	Replaces Kelsey DeCoste
Mark Carney	Student Aide	05/19/2025	PT 15	A	\$10.70	Avon	New Hire	Replaces Annette Najjar

*Two full-time PSP positions were converted to four part-time PSP positions.

#2025-033 Resolution of Appreciation – Carol Russo, Human Resource Specialist – Main Branch

#2025-034 Resolution to Approve the Acceptance of a \$9,000 grant from Arts Midwest Council for NEA Big Read Initiative.

Mr. Byrne moved, Ms. Torres seconded approval of all Consent Items #2025-032 to #2025-034.

Roll Call for Resolutions #2025-032 to #2025-034: yes, unanimous

Other Agenda Items

- Hotspots

Director Diamond-Ortiz updated the board regarding the possible need of ERate funding for the hotspots (\$100,000) to possibly come from the general fund. President McClelland asked that this be sent to the Library Services & Personnel Committee for discussion.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25p.m.

ATTEST:


President


Secretary

