

## **Wabash Carnegie Library Board of Trustees**

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Wabash Carnegie Public Library

188 W. Hill St

Wabash, IN 46992

### **Call to Order**

Bill Benysh called the regular meeting of the WCPL Board of Trustees to order at 5:39pm. This meeting was held at Wabash Carnegie Public Library, 188 W. Hill St, Wabash, IN 46992. Notice of the meeting was posted according to statute. Members present were Bill Benysh, Mary Jo McClelland, Jim Widner, Jeff Knee, Susan Baker, and Charles Miller.

Board members absent with excuse: Rhonda Hipskind

### **Consent Agenda**

Consent agenda was presented with noted changes to the minutes.

Motion: Knee

Second: McClelland

Motion Carried

### **President's Report**

President, Bill Benysh reported that he has made the new Executive Director aware of the moving expenses budget, and what documents were needed for reimbursement.

## **Committee Report**

Mary Jo McClelland reports on the Parks Department information. The officers for the Park Board remain as they were last year. Fencing is up around the new tennis and pickle ball courts for security purposes. Work is done on this area until weather breaks. Boardmoor Park area is under discussion for having gardens put in place. Pool season was discussed at the last meeting as was the possible artwork that would be put on the east wall of the pool area facing the parking lot.

## **New Business**

1. Slate of officers for the Board of Trustees was presented: Bill Benysh, President, Rhonda Hipskind, Vice President, Mary Jo McClelland, Treasurer, and Susan Baker, Treasurer.

Motion: Widner

Second: McClelland

Motion Carried

2. Brubaker Restricted Fund was presented. The restrictions for this fund are this is for incoming Kindergartner students enrolling at Metro North Elementary or Southwood Elementary. The fund will pay for Library cards for these students for June, July and August of the summer before they enter kindergarten. The Brubakers wish a press release to occur after Kindergarten Round Up occurs.

Motion: McClelland

Second: Miller

Motion Carried

3. Continued review of the proposed Strategic Plan occurred. The focus was on technology and locating a technology replacement plan. Interim Director, Jan Roland, said that she would search for this plan and forward it onto to Bill Benysh when found.

## **Manager's Reports and Interim Director's reports were shared**

### **For the Good of the Cause**

Board discussion occurred on the future of the Story Walk which is located at Paradise Springs Park. The walk is in disarray and is no longer in a safe location. The Board directed Interim Director, Jan Roland, to talk to Youth Services Manager about what she feels about the Story Walk and its future. The Parks Department does not wish to maintain it. Possible location moves were discussed, those being Boardmoor Park or the walking path at Parkview Hospital Wabash.

Library attorney, Mark Guenin, sent an email and revised Library of Things policy for the Board to look at and discuss at the February meeting.

Interim Director, Jan Roland, made the Board aware of the issue of the patron who returned books with bed bugs in them. A copy of the letter sent to the patron explaining her ban from the Library, and next steps that are required to be reinstated as a patron was shown. Also a copy of the Bed Bug policy was available for the Board to read.

The Board also asked going forward for the Managers to put their names and areas on the top of their Managers reports.

Adjournment

6:20pm

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting minutes for January 20, 2026 were presented and approved by the Board of Trustees on February 17, 2026.

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Wm. Bengt

Chen Miller

Susan L. Baker

James K. Adams

Jeff Zou

Rhonda Hipkirk

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ATTEST



Susan Baker, Secretary