



February Board of Library Trustees Meeting

Tue Feb 17, 2026 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM CST

CALL TO ORDER

Board President Ruth Bittner called the meeting of the Board of Library Trustees of Peoria Public Library to order at 5:32 pm. This regular meeting was held in the Lower Level 2 Conference Room at the Main Library, 107 NE Monroe St., Peoria, Illinois.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Ruth Bittner, Cecilia Buckner, Margaret Cousin, Scot Driscoll, Kevin Kinne, Steven Marx, Roberta Parks, and Barbara Van Auken

Board Members Absent: None

Library Staff Present: Emily Byron, Circulation Manager; Jennifer Davis, Public Relations Manager; Veronica De Fazio, Deputy Director; Elise Hearn, Programming Manager; Jennifer Jacobsen-Wood, Technical Services Manager; Kathryn McBride, McClure Branch Manager; Karla Wilkinson, Programming Librarian; and Randall Yelverton, Executive Director

Others Present: None

CORRESPONDENCE

Margaret Cousin stated that the Library should be proud for receiving money from the Carnegie Foundation for the Lincoln Branch.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

1. #2026-19: Request to Approve the Minutes as listed below:
 - a. Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of January 27, 2026
 - b. Minutes of the Executive Session of the Regular Board meeting of January 27, 2026
2. #2026-20: Request to Approve the Expenditures as listed below:
 - a. Payroll for the Period Ending 01/17/26 in the amount of \$165,679.25
 - b. Payroll for the Period Ending 01/31/26 in the amount of \$161,744.96
 - c. Regular Expenditures for February 2026 in the amount of \$224,655.44
 - d. 2025 Obligated Funds for February 2026 in the amount of \$16,666.05
3. #2026-21: Request of the Executive Director to Approve Personnel Actions for the period ending February 13, 2026

4. #2026-22: Request of the Executive Director to Receive and File Finance Report for the Month of January 2026
5. #2026-23: Request of the Executive Director to Receive and File Library Use Statistics for the Month of January 2026

A motion was made by Steven Marx, seconded by Margaret Cousin to approve Consent Agenda items #2026-19 through #2026-23. Motion passed unanimously.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

1. #2026-24 Adopt NEW Identity Protection Policy

A motion was made by Scot Driscoll, seconded by Barbara Van Auken to approve the Identity Protection Policy as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

2. #2026-25 Adopt NEW Programming Policy

A motion was made by Roberta Parks, seconded by Barbara Van Auken to approve the Programming Policy as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

3. #2026-26 First Reading: Revised Public Access Computer and Internet Policy

Yelverton introduced a revised Public Access Computer and Internet Policy, stating that the policy is reviewed on a regular basis to remain current with best practices. Steven Marx suggested a grammatical correction on page 2. No other corrections or additions were discussed. The revised policy will be put forth for a vote at the March meeting.

4. #2026-27 Expenditure for Lincoln Boiler Replacement

Yelverton stated that because of the cost, the project was required to go out for bid. Bids were received from TSI and Illinois Piping Corporation. Yelverton recommended that the Board approve the bid from TSI. A motion was made by Margaret Cousin, seconded by Steven Marx to accept the TSI bid in the amount of \$59,995. Parks inquired as to the timeline for the project. Yelverton responded the project should be completed by March 31, 2026. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Yelverton reported on the progress toward completing the IPLAR as well as the retirement of Reference Assistant Carolyn Conklin. He shared that the Library had received 83 applications for the position. Yelverton also shared that several staff members will be attending the Public Library Association's upcoming conference in Minneapolis. In addition, he noted that the Library's winter reading club has been very successful and that the Library will be hosting several author visits throughout 2026.

As part of this report, Jenni Davis debuted the Library's new logo and the Board held a discussion regarding circulation, programming and program attendance.

STAFF REPORTS

1. PROGRAMMING REPORT

Programming Manager Elise Hearn highlighted a few of the programs from her report.

2. COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT

Elise shared information about the new partnership between the Library and the Regional Office of Education's Preschool for All program.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY BOARD LIAISON TO THE FRIENDS OF THE PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Friends of the Library President Margaret Cousin shared that the Friends are looking into an issue that they had with their PayPal account. She also shared that she is still working on procuring donations to go towards the Library's digitization project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Building Committee** - None
2. **Executive Committee** - None
3. **Finance Committee** - None
4. **Nominating/Appeals Committee** - None
5. **Personnel/Negotiations Committee** - None
6. **Strategic Planning Committee** - None

OTHER BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Barbara Van Auken, seconded by Steven Marx to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:09 pm

Roberta Parks, Secretary
Board of Library Trustees
Peoria Public Library