



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

La Crosse Public Library
800 Main Street
La Crosse WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Library Board

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

5:00 PM

La Crosse Public Library
Auditorium (Lower Level)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Call to Order

The Vice Chair, Kathy Ivey, called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Sue Anglehart, Kathy Ivey, Araysa Simpson, Mac Kiel, Erin Raymus, Jess Thill, Rosanne Northwood, Aaron Engel

ABSENT: Katie Bittner

STAFF: Dawn Wacek, Daniel Whitmore, Cynthia Arauz, Brooke Newberry, Amber Leibundgut-Peterson, Miranda Greeno

Agenda Items:

1 Library Hours 2026

Director Wacek presented four options for 2026 Library hours. Two options for Main reduce operating hours by four hours per week. The first option proposes closing on Sundays; the second proposes closing two hours earlier on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Staff feedback indicates a general preference for a Sunday closure.

Two options for North reduce operating hours by 12 hours per week. The first option proposes operating Monday through Thursday from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. The second option proposes hours of 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday and 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday. Director Wacek will gather additional staff feedback prior to next week's regular Board meeting.

In reviewing these proposals, the Board discussed which options would best serve the greatest number of patrons. Director Wacek confirmed that school visits can still be scheduled outside of North's public hours. A vote on 2026 Library hours will occur at next week's meeting. The Board plans to revisit Main hours in the summer, following the closure of North, while considering of the potential 2027 budget.

2 North Community Library Planning

Library leadership has initiated planning for next steps in anticipation of North's June closure. A meeting is scheduled in January to discuss City ownership of the building. The June closure date will be voted on by the Board next week.

3 Mural – Arts Board Collaboration

Jacqueline Marcou, City of La Crosse Arts Coordinator, attended the meeting to discuss the exciting mural collaboration among the Arts Board, Library, and artist Lettie Jane Rennekamp. Rennekamp, based in Portland, Oregon, will work with UW-La Crosse students during the project. The mural is planned for the large exterior cement wall of Main, with a projected start in May 2026. The Board will vote on the mural color palette next week.

4 Replacement Electrical Breaker-1964

Infrastructure Manager Whitmore reported that an electrical breaker installed in 1964 failed during the planned November 18 power outage. The issue requires prompt attention and has been reported to City inspectors.

4.1 Cost Estimate and Funding

A temporary repair is estimated at approximately \$50,000, while full replacement is estimated at more than \$100,000. Final cost estimates are pending. Construction contingency funds within the grant-supported renovations may cover the expense. Carryover funds from vacant Library positions may also be available. Director Wacek noted this situation may provide an opportunity to discuss shared responsibility for unforeseen costs with Mayor Shaundel Washington-Spivey and City Finance.

5 Medora Nelson-Ferris Fund Update

Director Wacek reported that LPL has received more than 40 generous donations in honor of children's Librarian Medora Nelson-Ferris, totaling roughly \$20,000. This amount includes a generous \$10,000 contribution from the Washburn Board. The Library plans to work with the La Crosse Area Community Foundation to establish a non-endowed fund to support future renovations to spaces serving children and families.

Adjournment

Ms. Ivey adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 5:52 p.m.