



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

La Crosse Public Library
800 Main Street
La Crosse WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Library Board

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

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 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Kathy Ivey, Sue Anglehart, Aaron Engel, Jess Thill, Araysa Simpson, Rosanne Northwood (joined at 5:13 p.m.)

ABSENT: Mac Kiel, Erin Raymus

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

Agenda Items:

1 Staff Vacation Schedule Comparison

When comparing the City and Library vacation schedules, the City surpasses the Library in vacation time once employees reach the 15-year mark. Director Wacek spoke with the City's Director of Human Resources Rebecca Franzen regarding what adoption of the City's vacation schedule would look like for the Library.

Adopting the City schedule, while grandfathering current Staff, would simplify understanding for LPL employees as well as for HR and Payroll and would provide equity among non-represented Staff at both the City and Library. New hires would fall under the new policy and vacation schedule. The recommendation is to adopt the City's vacation schedule.

2 Fund Balance Priorities

The Library is significantly under budget for 2025. This is due to three unfilled full-time positions, the purchase of fewer materials because of construction and limited space, and utilities costs being much lower than anticipated. While a final number is not yet available, LPL currently expects a fund balance of several hundred thousand dollars.

The Board was presented with three priority lists:

Level 1: feasibility study, electrical panel, catalog furniture stations, drop box and lockers, staff office spaces to align with the new second-floor staff area, and updates to all-ages play activities

Level 2: atrium repair

Level 3: generator, lower-level Auditorium carpet, stairwell carpets, and a new foldable wall in the teen space

3 Feasibility Study – Next Steps

Ms. Wacek met with Crescendo Fundraising Professionals last week. The discussion included reviewing a feasibility study timeline draft. This timeline would extend the process from four months to five months due to the upcoming closure of North Community Library, the completion of the Flexible Facilities Program (FFP) grant and construction, and the absence of a full-time employee dedicated solely to this project. The final feasibility study report is scheduled to be presented to the Board on September 8.

Adjournment

Ms. Ivey adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 5:24 p.m.