



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

La Crosse Public Library
800 Main Street
La Crosse WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Library Board

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

5:00 PM

La Crosse Public Library
Auditorium (Lower Level)

Call to Order

The Chair, Sue Anglehart, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT:

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

Agenda Items:

1 Approval of Minutes from Regular Board Meeting – December 9, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular Board meeting of December 9, 2025.

(Aaron Engel/Kathy Ivey) Carried

2 Approval of Minutes from Committee of the Whole – No January Meeting

3 Approval of Minutes from Committee of the Whole with Amendment – December 2, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting of December 2, 2025 with amendment.

(Kathy Ivey/Aaron Engel) Carried

4 Approval of Bills & Financial Reports – December 2025

Motion to approve the bills and financial reports from December 2025.

(Aaron Engel/Erin Raymus) Carried

5 Annual Code of Ethics Review

Board members gave verbal confirmation of review and the Chair signed on their behalf.

6 Reports

6.1 Director's Report

6.11 Staffing Updates

Current open positions include one full-time Associate, one full-time Assistant 2, and one part-time Assistant. Public Services Manager Brooke Newberry was appointed to the State Superintendent's Reading Advisory Council.

6.12 Operational Updates

A shift within the Library's organizational chart will return the two Public Services teams to an adult and youth focus. As LPL is about one year post-reorganization, Leadership has been evaluating what is working well and what is not. Teams are transitioning from Public Experiences and Outreach and Marketing to Children and Families and Lifelong Learning. These changes do not affect job descriptions. Staff has been informed.

6.13 Construction Updates

The project is nearing completion. Today, Supervisors and Managers took an informal tour of the new spaces. Movers are currently relocating existing shelving. Furniture delivery is scheduled for the last week of January. The grand reopening is targeted for March 11.

A full replacement of the electrical panel is estimated to cost approximately \$142,000. The contingency within the grant budget still contains close to \$100,000. The replacement may require a one-day shutdown. A recommendation regarding additional funding source will be brought to a vote at the next Board meeting.

7 Old Business

8 New Business

8.1 2026 City Handbook Updates for Adoption

Director Wacek reviewed the 2026 City handbook updates for adoption with the Board. Items 6 and 7 regarding non-exempt and exempt vacation schedules will be brought back for further consideration at the next Board meeting. A chart comparing the current Library vacation schedule with the current City vacation schedule will be provided.

Motion to approve the 2026 City handbook updates for adoption as a package, items 1-5.

(Kathy Ivey/Rosanne Northwood) Carried

8.2 Position Changes – 1 Full-time Associate to 2 Part-time Assistants and 1 Full-time Assistant 2 to 2 Part-time Assistants

The proposed changes affect one full-time Associate position previously assigned to the Public Experiences team and one full-time Assistant 2 position previously assigned to the Resource Management team. These changes would result in savings on health insurance costs and wages in anticipation of a potential 2027 budget reduction.

A Board member raised a question regarding potential impacts on current workflows

and service levels versus cost savings. The discussion acknowledged the need to weigh benefits and fiscal value against potential drawbacks.

Motion to approve the position change of one full-time Assistant 2 to two part-time Assistants.

(Aaron Engel/Kathy Ivey) Carried

8.3 Approval of End of Fiscal Year Special Trustees Reimbursements

The total reimbursement of \$1,100 includes Anita Doering's retirement gift (\$200) and celebration (\$100), Shanneon Grant's retirement gift (\$200) and celebration (\$100), and Dawn Wacek's open house (\$500).

Motion to approve the end of fiscal year Special Trustees reimbursement of \$1,100.

(Aaron Engel/Jess Thill) Carried

8.4 Approval of Vendor Selection – Feasibility Study

The four proposals received by the committee were reviewed. Crescendo Fundraising Professionals was identified as the strongest candidate. References provided excellent feedback, with strengths noted in regional experience, as well as a realistic and pragmatic approach.

Motion to approve the selection of Crescendo Fundraising Professionals for the feasibility study.

(Kathy Ivey/Aaron Engel) Carried

9 Topics for Future Meetings

9.1 By-laws Review

9.2 Inclusive Holiday Closures Discussion

9.3 Board Education

9.4 Capital Improvement

9.5 Revisit Vacation Changes in City Handbook

9.6 Feasibility Study – Next Steps

10 Public Comment / Other

Adjournment

Adjournment at 5:46 p.m.

Motion to adjourn.

(Aaron Engel/Araysa Simpson) Carried