



Meeting Minutes

Library Board

Tuesday, March 10, 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: Jess Thill, Araysa Simpson, Aaron Engel (left at 5:32 p.m.), Sue Anglehart, Hannah Amann, Kathy Ivey, Erin Raymus (joined at 5:03 p.m.)

ABSENT: Mac Kiel, Rosanne Northwood

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

Agenda Items:

1 Introduction of Library Board Member, Hannah Amann

Ms. Anglehart introduced new Library Board member Hannah Amann. The Board expressed enthusiasm in welcoming her.

2 Approval of Minutes from Regular Board Meeting – February 10, 2026

**Motion to approve the minutes from the regular Board meeting of February 10, 2026.
(Aaron Engel/Araysa Simpson) Carried**

3 Approval of Minutes from Committee of the Whole – No Meeting March 3, 2026

4 Approval of Bills & Financial Reports – February 2026

**Motion to approve the bills and financial reports from February 2026.
(Aaron Engel/Jess Thill) Carried**

5 Reports

*5.1 Director's Report
5.11 Vacancy Report*

LPL welcomed Business Services Associate Tara Sagehorn, as well as Children & Families Assistants Ashley Burton and Dani Ehlinger. Frontline will be hiring three part-time Assistants following two recent staff departures and the transfer of Riley Davis to Resource Management to fill an open Assistant position.

An All-Staff Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12. Brian Sampson, Homelessness Coordinator for the City, Molly McCormick, Community Risk Educator and HOT team member, and two neighborhood resource officers will speak at this meeting.

5.12 Operations and Services Updates

The City is seeking community input through a Request for Expressions of Interest (REIF) to determine the future use of the North Community Library building. While a community group has expressed interest, final decisions will be made by the Common Council.

The City is beginning a strategic plan. Department Heads and the Common Council have held an initial meeting to discuss values, missions, and visions. Additional updates will follow.

An initial budget meeting was held. Department Heads were asked to prepare a two-year forecast of departmental costs and anticipated expenses. Health insurance costs are projected to increase by 10-12%. Budget reductions and potential use of fund balance to achieve a balanced budget are anticipated. Department Heads also proposed potential changes, including adding Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) step immediately and improved accounting for overtime (OT) and retirement costs.

The Children & Families and Lifelong Learning teams have been reorganized under new Supervisors. Staff morale is positive as planning begins for Summer Library Program (SLP).

Operations Manager Cynthia Arauz is updating LPL's Staff Handbook and developing enhanced safety and security protocols.

Infrastructure Manager Daniel Whitmore continues to oversee construction wrap-up, the air handler installation scheduled for April, and post-construction staff relocations.

5.13 Construction Update

A grand reopening event will be held tomorrow, March 11, in an open-house format, featuring hourly tours, light refreshments, and treats.

Awaiting electrical panel installation. Budget revisions were delayed due to missing paperwork related to Furniture Contract 5. Confirmation of the Flexible Facilities Program (FFP) grant budget adjustment is anticipated prior to the April Board meeting. The deadline for FFP grant expenditures is September.

The final furniture pieces of hold shelving and catalog stations are still pending delivery.

6 Old Business

7 New Business

7.1 2025 Annual Report

The 2025 Annual Report reflects expected decreases in circulation and program attendance due to construction and partial building closure. Case studies of other libraries undergoing renovations indicate a significant decline during construction, followed by recovery and stabilization. An increase in 2026 metrics is anticipated.

Resource Management Supervisor Lindsay Schmitt has reported an early increase in new materials circulation following the introduction of marketplace displays.

7.2 Photo and Film Policy Approval

The Photo and Film Policy formalizes current practices and establishes guidelines for photography and filming while protecting patron privacy.

Board members requested a revision of terminology from “customers” to “patrons” within the policy.

**Motion to approve the Photo and Film Policy with the noted revision.
(Erin Raymus/Aaron Engel) Carried**

7.3 Meeting Room Use Policy Approval

Revisions to the Meeting Room Use Policy are minor and primarily reflect the addition of new spaces and the removal of North Community Library meeting rooms. Fees and regulations remain unchanged.

**Motion to approve the Meeting Room Use Policy.
(Araysa Simpson/Aaron Engel) Carried.**

8 Topics for Future Meetings

8.1 Fund Balance Update

8.2 By-laws Review

8.3 Planning Updates for North Closure

8.4 Feasibility Study Update

8.5 Organization Position Structure

9 Public Comment / Other

Adjournment

Adjournment at 5:38 p.m.

**Motion to adjourn.
(Erin Raymus/Jess Thill) Carried**