

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2025

The regular meeting of the Worthington Libraries Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 6 p.m. in the meeting room of Worthington Park Library with Abigail Poklar presiding. Members present were Kyla Dembowski, Elizabeth Grieser, Emma Mulvaney, Haze Saputra and Joe Saverimuttu. Also present were Lauren Robinson, Director/CEO; Jeremie Stevens, CFO; Theresa Messenger, Executive Assistant; Sam Lewis, Systems Administrator; Robert Hess, Computer Systems Analyst; Becky Princehorn, President of Friends Foundation of Worthington Libraries.

Becky Princehorn provided an update on the Foundation's activities. They are currently working on filling four board vacancies. Funds supporting the library have been approved for 2025. One of the goals for the upcoming Big Book Sale is to clean up the bookroom and resume accepting donations. The Books & Brew event is scheduled for November 14 at Old Worthington Library. Additionally, Ms. Princehorn was invited to a sneak preview of the PBS documentary *Free for All: The Public Library*. She highly recommends it.

A motion was made by Ms. Dembowski and seconded by Ms. Grieser to approve RESOLUTION #02-01-25 to accept and approve the items under the consent agenda at one time.

- Minutes – Organizational Meeting and Regular Meeting – Tuesday, January 21, 2025
- Fiscal Officer's Report of the Payment of Bills for January in the amount of \$1,789,474.02 Fiscal Officer's Financial Statement and Investment Report for January 2025
- Gifts for January
General Fund – \$97.00 from Lee Sheets; \$48.50 from Katherine Webb; \$242.50 from Carol Price; \$145.50 from Kerry Orton; and \$242.50 from the McLean Family

Roll call: Ms. Dembowski, aye; Ms. Grieser, aye; Ms. Mulvaney, aye; Ms. Poklar, aye; Ms. Saputra, aye; and Mr. Saverimuttu. Motion passed.

The following information items were presented:

- Director's Report – January 2025

Director's Report

January 2025

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

- Continued working on the ADKAR plan of Supervisor Expectations for 2025.
- Continued rolling out Clifton Strengths – Symphony of Strengths Part 2 – with all staff

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Attended Leadership Worthington meetings
- Attended Leadership Roundtable











FUTURE PLANNING

- Master Facilities Plan – attended touch base meeting for updates on the progress of the MFP.

LIBRARY NEWS

January 2025

Key Performance Indicators

	Current month	Change from last month	Change from last year	Sparkline
	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	January 2023 – January 2025
Total first-time circulation	78,380	23% ▲	-10% ▼	
- Browse circulation	47,354	25% ▲	-10% ▼	
- Hold circulation	31,026	20% ▲	-11% ▼	
Digital circulation	75,764	9% ▲	12% ▲	
Total door counts	50,269	14% ▲	0% ●	
- OWL door counts	24,844	14% ▲	3% ●	
- NWL door counts	14,965	16% ▲	-5% ▼	
- WPK door counts	10,460	12% ▲	-1% ●	
Program attendance	4,171	226% ▲	15% ▲	
Meeting room reservations	67	46% ▲	26% ▲	

	Current month	Change from last month	Change from last year	Sparkline
	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	January 2023 – January 2025
Study room reservations	1,257	21% ▲	6% ▲	
Website sessions	107,280	20% ▲	2% ●	
Pages printed	260,413	51% ▲	57% ▲	

➤ Organizational Highlights – January 2025

ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 2025

Library Program Highlights

Cocoa and Canvas



On January 11, 90 enthusiastic artisans attended the Cocoa and Canvas event at NWL. These tiny Picassos flexed their creative muscles at the paper, paint, watercolor and stamping stations, created by Librarian Desiree Thomas, and designed brilliant masterpieces.

Passport Walk-In Hours

OWL hosted Passport Walk-In Hours on January 11. Over the course of two hours, 75 people visited, 33 applications were processed and many got their questions answered about what forms and documents are needed for future appointments. Passport agents Monica Baughman, Alison Nadvornik, Amy Brown, April Overly, Karah Power and Cora Slack helped with the program.

Paddington Arts and Crafts



On January 18, Lead Librarian Morgan Hidy and Library Associate Emily Kleinhenz hosted a Paddington Arts and Crafts program at NWL for 74 creative kids and grown-ups. Themed activities included Paddington Bear origami, designing special suitcases and painting marmalade toast and pretend cups of cocoa. Several adults told staff how grateful they were for programming after Saturday morning storytimes. They said not only are the programs fun, they get the whole family out of the house during the winter. Another said, "These activities are perfect for our little ones and their motor skills. You all thought of everything – even baby wipes for messy hands!"

Stuffed Animal Sleepover



On January 19, 35 beloved stuffed animals were left in the care of Librarian Jodi Langley to participate in a special sleepover at OWL – no humans allowed. The following afternoon, 61 children and caregivers were reunited with their best stuffed pals and enjoyed a storytime at which they were able to see all their stuffies' overnight shenanigans! Buckingham Forest was filled with laughter, with many saying they can't wait to do it again!

DIY Book Nooks



Fifteen adult and teen patrons designed and created their own bookshelf mini portals at the January 19 DIY Book Nooks program at NWL.

Dog Man Party



On January 25, Lead Librarian Meredith Richards held a Dog Man party at OWL. Ninety people attended and made their own Dog Man badges; created minions with cups, eyeball stickers and pipe cleaners; and played party games to win temporary tattoos. A couple of attendees told their families that it was “the best day ever!”

Pokémon Escape Room



On January 26, Library Associate Lexi Bright hosted a Pokémon-themed escape room at NWL. In total, 130 people attended with 80 people taking part in the first run and 50 in the second. Participants became Pokémon trainers tasked with breaking into Team Rocket’s secret lair to free three trapped Pokémon and stealing Jessie and James’ evil plans. They had 30 minutes to solve a series of puzzles using items and clues they found around the meeting room. The first group finished in just over 23 minutes and 30 seconds, while the second finished in 21 minutes. Mission completed, Pokémon Master certificates were distributed as well as Pokéballs filled with temporary tattoos. The kids had a blast, loudly cheering and mocking Team Rocket the entire time. A few patrons told Lexi how excited they were to show off their certificates at school to their friends. One, dressed as Ash Ketchum, left saying, “I did it! I knew I could beat Team Rocket!”

Service Highlights

After receiving a Library Goods bundle recently, a patron shared the following:

Just a quick note to let you know how much I’m enjoying the Library Goods bundle. It was exciting (and so much fun!) to pick up the surprise selection of books. Such great picks! I’m

really enjoying “The Boys In The Boat” and looking forward to digging into the other books soon. Thanks much!

Community Engagement Highlights

Outreach Services Coordinator Gabrielle Rathge attended Worthington Estates Elementary’s STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, Math) night on January 23. One student came up to Gabrielle and said, “Hey, I know you from Care After School!” as Gabrielle had recently presented a program there. The student’s mother then said she had just been to the library to print something for that night’s science fair. She commented how quick and easy it was to print what she needed and thanked us for offering the service.

Patron Highlights

Patron Lyndsey Gesick left NWL the following 5-Star Google Business Review: “The drive-up window for pickup and returns is my favorite thing. It makes going to the library so much so convenient, especially with a toddler running around. Love this place!”

Patron John Mulhearn left NWL the following 5-Star Google Business Review: “An absolutely amazing library! The staff is friendly, the facility is clean, and there is a great selection of various types of media and services.”

A patron told WPK staff how grateful she was for computer access at the library during her job search. She said she does not have a computer at home, and it is difficult to navigate job search/company websites on her phone. She came to WPK to search and apply for jobs, and also used the fax machine to send paperwork. She shared her success at being hired for a job that seems a perfect fit and gave a lot of the credit to being able to conduct her search at the library. She was so excited to start this new journey!

Staff Highlights

Muna Omar (she/her) joined our team as WPK youth services library associate on February 3. Muna’s most recent employment includes front desk receptionist for Wesley Glen Senior Living (2023-2024); administrative assistant for Tim S. Troiano, DDS, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon (2022-2023); and sales associate for Bath & Body Works (2020-2021). Muna earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from The Ohio State University.

Kristina Kesselring, NWL circulation assistant, has announced her resignation. Kristina is relocating to Midland, Michigan. “I cannot thank you, the Circulation Department, or the organization of Worthington Libraries enough for all that you have taught me. Working alongside you all in this organization these last ten years has made me who I am today. I appreciate all of the opportunities Worthington Libraries has given me. You have all taught me the value of camaraderie and meaningful work. I will take with me all of the wonderful experiences and lessons that I’ve learned here.” Her last day was February 7.

Libby McKain, NWL circulation assistant, has announced her resignation. Libby has accepted a full-time position with her current employer. “I truly enjoyed my time working here and I appreciate the opportunity.” Libby’s last day was February 14.

Allison Scheuering, NWL circulation manager, has announced her retirement. Allison began her career with Worthington Libraries as a general aide in January 2003. She was promoted to NWL part-time circulation assistant in August of that year, and then appointed to NWL full-time circulation assistant in September 2006. Allison was promoted to WPK circulation team

leader effective August 18, 2008. She was promoted again, for the third time, to WPK circulation manager on December 27, 2009. She had been a volunteer at the Worthington Estates Elementary School library for several years before coming to work here. Allison earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from The Ohio State University. "I leave with so many memories of my 22 years here. It is not easy to call it a day, but it is now time to close this chapter and focus on myself and my family. I wish everyone all the best." Allison's last day will be May 23.

- 2025 – Staff and Board of Trustees Participation in Professional and Community Organizations

Finance Operations

- Finance Report

Personnel

Appointment	Position	Department	Location	Repl/ New	Date
Muna Omar	library associate	youth services	WPK	R	02/03/25

An update from the Finance Committee Meeting was given by Ms. Dembowski. The CFO 2025 goals were presented to the Board.

A Finance/Operations Committee meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, March 6, at 8 a.m. in the Director's office to discuss the following:

- 2025 Permanent Appropriations
- Long-Range Financial Plan

A motion was made by Ms. Mulvaney and seconded by Mr. Saverimuttu to adopt RESOLUTION #02-02-25 to approve the revised Borrowers Card policy, effective 2/19/2025.

Voice vote: 6 ayes; 0 nays. Motion passed.

Ms. Dembowski moved with a second by Ms. Mulvaney to adopt RESOLUTION #02-03-25 to approve the revised Surplus Furniture and Equipment policy, effective 2/19/2025.

Roll call: Ms. Dembowski, aye; Ms. Grieser, aye; Ms. Mulvaney, aye; Ms. Poklar, aye; Ms. Saputra, aye; and Mr. Saverimuttu. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Ms. Grieser and seconded by Ms. Dembowski to adopt RESOLUTION 02-04-25 to honor Kristina Kesselring.

Voice vote: 6 ayes; 0 nays. Motion passed

Ms. Poklar moved the adjournment of the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Bank Balance as of January 31, 2025: \$22,243,625.17

This meeting was digitally recorded and is maintained on file by the Worthington Public Library.
