



## Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2025

The regular meeting of the Worthington Libraries Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 6:01 p.m. in the meeting room at Worthington Park Library with Joan Herbers presiding. Members present were Kyla Dembowski, Elizabeth Grieser; Emma Mulvaney, Abigail Poklar, Haze Saputra and Joe Saverimuttu. Also present were Lauren Robinson, Director/CEO; Jeremie Stevens, CFO; Phyllis Winfield, Director of Human Resources; Susan Allen, Director of Public Services; Theresa Messenger, Executive Assistant; Robert Hess, Computer Systems Analyst; OWL Adult/Youth Services Lead Librarian Karah Power.

There was no public participation.

Becky Princehorn provided an update on the Friends Foundation of Worthington Libraries. Walt Kobalka has resigned from the Friends Board and will now focus on volunteering at the book sales. Planning for Books & Brews event has commenced, with the event scheduled for Friday, November 14, at Old Worthington Library. Additionally, the Hills Market pizza event is set for October 15, with further details to be announced. The second payment to the Library has been authorized.

Old Worthington Library Adult/Youth Services Lead Librarian Karah Power provided an overview of this year's Summer Reading Club (SRC), themed "Ticket to Read." The program will run from May 23 through July 27. A new pilot initiative was introduced this year in collaboration with three elementary schools—Liberty, Slate Hill and Colonial Hills—where all students were enrolled in the SRC. In partnership with the Friends of the Library, the program ensures that every participating child and teen will receive a free book to keep. Each week, participants can engage in a "This or That" voting activity. Votes will be combined weekly, and a winner will be randomly selected to receive a prize. Upon completing the program, children, teens and adults will be entered into a grand prize drawing. Winners will receive a \$100 Visa gift card redeemable anywhere.

A motion was made by Ms. Poklar and seconded by Ms. Grieser to approve RESOLUTION #05-01-25 to accept and approve the items under the consent agenda at one time.

- Minutes—Regular Meeting—Tuesday, April 15, 2025
- Fiscal Officer's Report of the Payment of Bills for April in the amount of \$1,315,217.73
- Fiscal Officer's Financial Statement and Investment Report for April 2025
- Gifts for April
  - General Fund—\$1,685.00 from the Betty Jane Meyer Fund of the Columbus Foundation; \$145.50 from Rebecca Fiete; \$48.50 from Prabhat Gupta; and Anonymous contributions totaling \$1,260.89

Roll Call: Kyla Dembowski, aye; Elizabeth Grieser, aye; Joan Herbers, aye; Emma Mulvaney, aye; Abigail Poklar, aye; Haze Saputra, aye; and Joe Saverimuttu, aye. Motion passed.

The following information items were presented:

## Director's Report

April 2025

### EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

- Worked on the continuing training from Boss to Coach II

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Attended Leadership Worthington meetings
- Hosted and lead Leadership Worthington workshop at OWL
- Attended Legislative Day
- Attended the Library's Community Breakfast
- Attended MAC Board Meeting – Board Retreat
- Attended CLC Governing Council meeting

### FUTURE PLANNING





- Worked on campaign to ask for patrons to contact their Reps regarding the PLF
- Had final check-in meeting with HBM regarding the Master Facilities Plan

### LIBRARY NEWS

- Ohio's Biennium Budget passed the House and is now in the Senate

April 2025

Key Performance Indicators

	Current month	Change from last month	Change from last year	Sparkline
	April 2025	March 2025	April 2024	January 2023 – April 2025
Total first-time circulation	71,497	-11% ▼	-4% ●	
- Browse circulation	43,775	-13% ▼	-4% ●	
- Hold circulation	27,722	-6% ▼	-5% ●	
Digital circulation	72,759	-5% ▼	17% ▲	

	Current month	Change from last month	Change from last year	Sparkline
	April 2025	March 2025	April 2024	January 2023 – April 2025
Total door counts	55,369	-11% ▼	4% ●	
- OWL door counts	26,370	-7% ▼	3% ●	
- NWL door counts	17,015	-12% ▼	1% ●	
- WPK door counts	11,984	-15% ▼	10% ▲	
Program attendance	5,241	-28% ▼	-5% ●	
Meeting room reservations	66	-14% ▼	47% ▲	
Study room reservations	1,423	1% ●	7% ▲	
Website sessions	94,441	-5% ●	-3% ●	
Pages printed	85,909	-60% ▼	-50% ▼	

➤ Organizational Highlights – April 2025

## ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2025

### A. Library Program Highlights

#### Eric Carle Party



On April 4, library associates Lexi Bright and Mickayla Reyes hosted an Eric Carle-themed party at NWL for 115 patrons, who crafted and played games inspired by Carle's books and artwork. Several parents told Lexi how much the library means to them and how programs like this are always a highlight for their kids. One family, visiting from out of town, said, "Wow, I wish we had a place like this back home."

### WorthingTunes



On April 12, 170 patrons joined OWL staff for a musical presentation of Mary Pope Osborne's *Kate and the Beanstalk*, presented by the Worthington Chamber Orchestra. Narrated by Librarian Jodi Langley, patrons young and old delighted in the musical rendition of this fractured fairy tale. One patron shared with staff how passionate she is about children being exposed to the arts from an early age, and what a valuable opportunity it is for families and children to hear live orchestral music at the library.

### Holi



Holi Hai! On April 12, 53 people visited NWL to help library associates Emily Kleinhenz and Kathy Irvin celebrate Holi. They made themed crafts and threw Holi powder, and many told Emily and Kathy they really appreciate the library's annual Holi program.

### Junky Expressions

On April 21, Librarian Tranea' Jones hosted Junky Expressions at WPK for tweens and up. Attended by 22 people, patrons used everyday "junk" to authentically express themselves. Given a journal and using materials like stickers, receipts, magazine clippings, pages from a favorite old book and so much more, patrons created a journal of self-expression. While listening to music, laughing and sharing experiences, each participant walked away with their very own journal and some supplies to continue their newfound hobby of junk journaling.

### DIY Fairy Houses



On April 19, Library Associate Lexi Bright hosted a DIY Fairy Houses program. Held at NWL, 101 patrons worked with family and friends to create dozens of fairy houses using little upcycled



materials, natural objects and craft supplies. The kids were very excited to share all the thought they'd put into designing their homes and the stories they'd begun weaving about the fairies who would live there. "I've never seen such an impressive display of imagination," one patron told Lexi. Another told them, "We're so lucky to have such a magical library." At least a dozen asked that the program be repeated, requesting even more time to perfect their masterpieces.

### DIY Stained Glass Vase



On April 30, Library Associate Jacob Blackwell hosted a DIY-stained glass vase program at OWL. Using a wide range of colorful inks and markers, 37 patrons designed a vase of their very own. Many asked if the Library could repeat the program in the future, and a few people who missed out asked where they could purchase supplies to stain glassware at home.

## **B. Service Highlights**

### Chick Hatching at WPK



WPK extended the chick-hatching experience by hosting their brood a few weeks after OWL and NWL. While waiting for the chicks to hatch, patrons were invited to submit names to be randomly drawn as each chick hatched, with 151 names suggested. Starting the week of April 2, six chicks hatched at WPK and were named Beep!, Watson, Sunny, Mabel, Pickles and Vihu. Pictured here is a group watching Sunny hatch. When she broke through the shell completely, the crowd applauded. Over the week, many patrons visited the chicks and enjoyed holding and cuddling them.

## Slate Hill Family Fun Night



On April 25, WPK hosted an after-hours Family Fun Night for Slate Hill Elementary families, with 155 people in attendance. Library Associate Laela Tague-Behler staffed a robot station, Librarian Lily Dawson ran a Switch and temporary tattoo station, Library Associate Nick Spence was in charge of the crafting area, Circulation Assistant Ian Martin led children's activities and item check and Library Manager Kate Folmar manned a button making station. Director of Public Services Susan Allen helped by roving and making sure staff and volunteers had everything they needed, while Lead Librarian Hilary Harlan organized the event. Four excellent volunteers assisted, including one teacher who insisted on donning Pete the Cat's multiple costumes.

### **C. Community Engagement Highlights**

Librarian David Reyes visited the memory care unit at the Laurels of Worthington on April 17. He presented several poems for National Poetry Month, including those from Shel Silverstein and Dr. Seuss. He also shared a spring-themed word search for residents to work on. David, along with Librarian April Overly, will visit the facility monthly taking residents resources and activities, as many do not have the physical means to visit the library themselves.

Volunteer Coordinator Erin Buerk was asked to participate in the Worthington Education Foundation's Eighth Grade Professional Day at Kilbourne Middle School on April 30. The goal of the pilot program is to help eighth graders practice shaking hands, making eye contact, wearing respectful attire and learning how to ask appropriate questions while talking about their goals and accomplishments in a professional setting. As students enter high school, they will need to professionally present themselves as they apply for academic programs, volunteer positions, scholarships, jobs and more. Each student had about 10 minutes to chat with a professional. Afterwards, the professionals were asked to write an encouraging note to the student and reflect on the interview. Erin loved speaking to the kids about their lives in middle school and their future in high school and hopes the program "becomes an established venture at the other Worthington middle schools."

### **D. Patron Highlights**

Patron Amitava Das left WPK the following 5-star Google Business review: "Incredible place for spending quality time."

Patron Richa Kejriwal left WPK the following 5-star Google Business review: "Love it. Very helpful librarians. Great sitting area for quiet reading."



Patron Randy Dana left NWL the following 5-star Google Business review: “A great local library with a large selection of books for all ages and subjects as well as a friendly and helpful staff.”

### E. Staff Highlights



On April 19, NWL hosted Riverview International Center’s Women in Workforce Empowerment Group for a curated morning of professional development and intercultural dialogue. HR Coordinator Fevean Keflom and Circulation Team Leader Swati Datta spoke about the New American experience and job opportunities within the library field. The morning ended with a tour of NWL and a chance to sign up for a library card.

On April 25, HR Coordinator Fevean Keflom showcased the library’s international book selection at Worthington Kilbourne High School’s International Day, and highlighted resources that might help with the New American experience. Outreach Services Coordinator Gabrielle Rathge provided a selection of books and resources for the table.

- Ohio Levy and Bond Issue Unofficial Results, May 2025

#### Finance Operations

- Finance Report – April 2025
- GFOA Letter and PAFR Award

## Personnel

### ➤ No Personnel Appointments

A motion was made by Ms. Poklar, and seconded by Ms. Mulvaney, to adopt RESOLUTION #05-02-25 to offer Dual Option plans through Anthem and the ERC Health medical insurance program for the medical and prescription drug insurance, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, at the rates and employer/employee contributions listed below. For full-time employees, the Library will contribute \$1,050 per year for employee-only coverage and \$2,100 per year for spouse/dependent coverage to their Health Savings Accounts. For employees with designated position hours of 30 to 36, the Library will contribute \$850 per year to their Health Savings Accounts. For employees with designated position hours of 20 to 29, the Library will contribute \$700 per year to their Health Savings Accounts. These contributions will be made in quarterly payments by the last day of January, April, July and October.

	Base Plan Monthly Premium	Employee Contribution	EE % of Premium	Employer Contribution	ER % of Premium	Buy-Up Plan Monthly Premium	Employee Contribution	EE % of Premium	Employer Contribution	ER % of Premium
<b>Medical</b>										
Employee only (FT):	\$882.79	\$44.14	5.00%	\$838.65	95.00%	\$1,265.38	\$189.80	15.00%	\$1,075.58	85.00%
Employee + Spouse (FT):	\$1,940.36	\$252.24	13.00%	\$1,688.12	87.00%	\$2,781.38	\$639.72	23.00%	\$2,141.66	77.00%
Employee + Child (FT):	\$1,490.15	\$193.72	13.00%	\$1,296.43	87.00%	\$2,135.96	\$491.26	23.00%	\$1,644.70	77.00%
Family (FT):	\$2,725.58	\$354.34	13.00%	\$2,371.34	87.00%	\$3,909.87	\$899.26	23.00%	\$3,010.61	77.00%
Employee only (30 hrs/wk):	\$882.79	\$167.72	19.00%	\$715.07	81.00%	\$1,265.38	\$366.96	29.00%	\$898.42	71.00%
Employee + Spouse (30 hrs/wk):	\$1,940.36	\$582.10	30.00%	\$1,358.26	70.00%	\$2,781.38	\$1,112.54	40.00%	\$1,668.84	60.00%
Employee + Child (30 hrs/wk):	\$1,490.15	\$447.04	30.00%	\$1,043.11	70.00%	\$2,135.96	\$854.38	40.00%	\$1,281.58	60.00%
Family (30 hrs/wk):	\$2,725.58	\$817.70	30.00%	\$1,907.98	70.00%	\$3,909.87	\$1,563.94	40.00%	\$2,345.93	60.00%
Employee only (20 hrs/wk):	\$882.79	\$264.84	30.00%	\$617.95	70.00%	\$1,265.38	\$506.14	40.00%	\$759.24	60.00%
Employee + Spouse (20 hrs/wk):	\$1,940.36	\$892.56	46.00%	\$1,047.80	54.00%	\$2,781.38	\$1,557.56	56.00%	\$1,223.82	44.00%
Employee + Child (20 hrs/wk):	\$1,490.15	\$685.46	46.00%	\$804.69	54.00%	\$2,135.96	\$1,196.13	56.00%	\$939.83	44.00%
Family (20 hrs/wk):	\$2,725.58	\$1,253.80	46.00%	\$1,471.88	54.00%	\$3,909.87	\$2,189.52	56.00%	\$1,720.35	44.00%

Roll Call: Kyla Dembowski, aye; Elizabeth Grieser, aye; Joan Herbers, aye; Emma Mulvaney, aye; Abigail Poklar, aye; Haze Saputra, aye; and Joe Saverimuttu, aye. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Ms. Mulvaney, and seconded by Ms. Dembowski, to adopt RESOLUTION #05-03-25 to offer Dual Option plans through Delta Dental effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027, at the rates and employer/employee contributions listed below.

	Base Plan Monthly Premium	Employee Contribution	EE % of Premium	Employer Contribution	ER % of Premium	Buy-Up Plan Monthly Premium	Employee Contribution	EE % of Premium	Employer Contribution	ER % of Premium
<b>DENTAL</b>										
Employee only (FT):	\$39.00	\$1.94	5.00%	\$37.06	95.03%	\$49.12	\$7.36	15.00%	\$41.76	85.02%
Family (FT):	\$113.67	\$14.78	13.00%	\$98.89	87.00%	\$150.09	\$34.52	23.00%	\$115.57	77.00%
Employee only (30 hrs/wk):	\$39.00	\$7.40	19.00%	\$31.60	81.03%	\$49.12	\$14.24	29.00%	\$34.88	71.00%
Family (30 hrs/wk):	\$113.67	\$34.10	30.00%	\$79.57	70.00%	\$150.09	\$60.04	40.00%	\$90.05	60.00%
Employee only (20 hrs/wk):	\$39.00	\$11.70	30.00%	\$27.30	70.00%	\$49.12	\$19.64	40.00%	\$29.48	60.02%
Family (20 hrs/wk):	\$113.67	\$52.28	46.00%	\$61.39	54.01%	\$150.09	\$84.04	56.00%	\$66.05	44.01%

Roll Call: Kyla Dembowski, aye; Elizabeth Grieser, aye; Joan Herbers, aye; Emma Mulvaney, aye; Abigail Poklar, aye; Haze Saputra, aye; and Joe Saverimuttu, aye. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Ms. Mulvaney, and seconded by Ms. Dembowski, to adopt RESOLUTION #05-04-25 to amend RESOLUTION #04-03-25 accepting Vision Service Plan's renewal for the dual option vision insurance plans effective May 1, 2025, through April 30, 2027, at the rates and employer/employee contributions listed below; and to refund the applicable employees' overpayment of the May and June premiums.



VISION	Base Plan Monthly Premium	Employee Contribution	EE % of Premium	Employer Contribution	ER % of Premium	Buy-Up Plan Monthly Premium	Employee Contribution	EE % of Premium	Employer Contribution	ER % of Premium
Employee only (FT):	\$6.82	\$0.34	5.00%	\$6.48	95.01%	\$10.02	\$1.50	15.00%	\$8.52	85.00%
Family (FT):	\$15.44	\$2.00	13.00%	\$13.44	87.05%	\$22.67	\$5.20	23.00%	\$17.47	77.04%
Employee only (30 hrs/wk):	\$6.82	\$1.28	19.00%	\$5.54	81.23%	\$10.02	\$2.90	29.00%	\$7.12	71.10%
Family (30 hrs/wk):	\$15.44	\$4.64	30.00%	\$10.80	69.95%	\$22.67	\$9.06	40.00%	\$13.61	60.04%
Employee only (20 hrs/wk):	\$6.82	\$2.04	30.00%	\$4.78	70.09%	\$10.02	\$4.00	40.00%	\$6.02	60.08%
Family (20 hrs/wk):	\$15.44	\$7.10	46.00%	\$8.34	54.02%	\$22.67	\$12.70	56.00%	\$9.97	44.00%

Roll Call: Kyla Dembowski, aye; Elizabeth Grieser, aye; Joan Herbers, aye; Emma Mulvaney, aye; Abigail Poklar, aye; Haze Saputra, aye; and Joe Saverimuttu, aye. Motion passed.

Ms. Poklar provided an update from the Planning/Library Services Committee meeting held on Monday, May 12. During the meeting, the final Master Facility Plan was distributed to the Board. The primary emphasis will be on the facility maintenance items outlined in the Plan. Additional concepts will be reviewed at a later date.

A Board Governance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 5, at 8:30 a.m. in the Director's office to begin the trustee search process and to discuss virtual board meetings.

Ms. Dembowski moved, and Ms. Poklar seconded to adopt RESOLUTION #05-05-25 to honor Allison Scheuering.

### **RESOLUTION TO HONOR ALLISON SCHEUERING**

WHEREAS, Allison Scheuering began work at Worthington Libraries as general aide in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Allison was appointed to circulation assistant on August 11, 2003; and

WHEREAS, Allison was appointed to circulation team leader on August 18, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Allison was appointed to circulation manager on December 27, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Allison is known for her dedication to public service, always looking for ways to promote the Library and library services to the community, knowledge of Worthington history and Circulation, discovering glitches in the catalog and circulation system, and finding ways to improve Circulation processes; and

WHEREAS, Allison is also known as the queen of memes with a song for any situation, for her love of OSU football and British music and TV shows; and

WHEREAS, Allison is appreciated for her calm and steadfast presence, guidance and direction, popping in to say hello with a warm smile, good humor, willingness to take on any challenge and help with whatever (and we mean anything!) needs to be done, completing projects on time, sharing her abundant knowledge, supporting staff in any situation; and

WHEREAS, Allison's colleagues describe her as welcoming, kind, enthusiastic, upbeat, eager to help, a pillar of support, heroic, generous; and

WHEREAS, Allison, for 22 years, has been an invaluable member of our team;

Now, therefore, be it resolved on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025, that the Board of Trustees of Worthington Libraries formally offers Allison its gratitude and appreciation for her leadership and very best wishes for her retirement.

Voice vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion passed.

Ms. Herbers moved the adjournment of the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Bank Balance as of April 30, 2025: \$23,903,039.14.

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

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