



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2025

The regular meeting of the Worthington Libraries Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 6 p.m. in the meeting room at Worthington Park Library with Joan Herbers presiding. Members present were Kyla Dembowski; Elizabeth Grieser, Abigail Poklar, Haze Saputra and Joe Saverimuttu. Also present were Lauren Robinson, Director/CEO, Jeremie Stevens, CFO; Monica Baughman, Director of Support Services; Susan Allen, Director of Public Services; Theresa Messenger, Executive Assistant; Sam Lewis, Systems Administrator and Robert Hess, Computer Systems Analyst.

Public participation: None

Becky Princehorn provided an update on the Friends Foundation. Planning for the upcoming Books & Brews event is progressing. The Annual Agreement between the Friends and the Library has been signed by the Friends; a resolution for approval will be presented later in this meeting and will require the signatures of Joan Herbers and Lauren Robinson. The Friends bookroom has undergone renovations, including the removal of old wall-mounted shelving and the installation of new mobile shelving units. Additionally, the charitable registration has been successfully filed with the Ohio Attorney General's office.

A motion was made by Ms. Poklar and seconded by Ms. Grieser to approve RESOLUTION #08-01-25 to accept and approve the items under the consent agenda at one time.

- Minutes—Regular Meeting—June 17, 2025
- Fiscal Officer's Report of the Payment of Bills for June in the amount of \$1,088,868.76 and July in the amount of \$1,172,393.87
- Fiscal Officer's Financial Statement and Investment Report for June and July 2025
- Gifts for June and July
General Fund Contributions—\$50.00 from Anne Matteis in memory of Barbara Truman; \$300.00 from the Wednesday Literary Club; \$300.00 from an anonymous donor; and \$300.00 from Tynan and Jutta Wait

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

The following information items were presented:

- Director's Report – June and July 2025

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

- June
 - All supervisors became Gallup Certified managers
- July
 - Continued training supervisors on the new supervisor expectations

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- June
 - Attended Leadership Worthington meetings – became the Lead of the Service Day committee.
 - Attended MAC Board meeting and committee meetings
 - Volunteered at the Worthington Arts Festival hosted by the MAC
 - Walked in the Columbus Pride Parade
 - Attended CLC Governing Council meeting
 - Attended ETM meeting regarding the state budget
 - Attended and helped at the Summer Movie Series at NWL
- July
 - Attended MAC development committee meeting
 - Attended and led Service Day committee meeting
 - Attended CLC Governing Council meeting
 - Attended and helped at the Summer Movie Series at NWL
- Pop-up Library Stats:
 - June- 17 visits, 1606 people
 - July- 13 visits, 222 people

FUTURE PLANNING

- June
 - Advocated for library funding and the removal of the provision regarding the placement of books during the state budget process
- July
 - Reviewed the Master Facilities Plan began to plan for 2026 projects
 - Identified budget priorities for 2026 with Executive Team

LIBRARY NEWS

- June
 - Ohio Senate and the Conference Committee passed the biennium budget
 - Attended ALA Annual Conference
 - New ALA president announced: Daniel Montgomery

- July
 - Ohio biennium budget passed by Governor DeWine after vetoing several line items
 - Attended OLC's webinar on the state budget and the provisions related to libraries

June 2025

Key Performance Indicators

	Current month	Change from last month	Change from last year	Sparkline
	June 2025	May 2025	June 2024	January 2023 – June 2025
Total first-time circulation	82,994	6% ▲	-5% ●	
- Browse circulation	55,585	9% ▲	-5% ●	
- Hold circulation	27,409	1% ●	-6% ▼	
Digital circulation	74,022	4% ●	26% ▲	
Total door counts	61,911	5% ▲	1% ●	
- OWL door counts	28,790	1% ●	2% ●	
- NWL door counts	21,063	14% ▲	2% ●	
- WPK door counts	12,058	1% ●	-4% ●	
Program attendance	5,054	-18% ▼	2% ●	
Meeting room reservations	63	-3% ●	50% ▲	
Study room reservations	1,357	8% ▲	13% ▲	
Website sessions	95,182	0% ●	-3% ●	
Pages printed	79,342	-3% ●	-61% ▼	

July 2025

Key Performance Indicators

	Current month	Change from last month	Change from last year	Sparkline
	July 2025	June 2025	July 2024	January 2023 – July 2025
Total first-time circulation	85,346	3% ●	-4% ●	
- Browse circulation	56,519	2% ●	-4% ●	
- Hold circulation	28,827	5% ●	-5% ●	
Digital circulation	81,646	10% ▲	31% ▲	
Total door counts	64,983	5% ●	3% ●	
- OWL door counts	29,814	4% ●	3% ●	
- NWL door counts	21,347	1% ●	2% ●	
- WPK door counts	13,822	15% ▲	3% ●	
Program attendance	4,465	-12% ▼	-5% ●	
Meeting room reservations	52	-17% ▼	58% ▲	
Study room reservations	1,591	17% ▲	13% ▲	
Website sessions	100,440	6% ▲	-5% ●	
Pages printed	84,369	6% ▲	-60% ▼	

- OWL will close at 5 p.m. on Friday, November 14, 2025, for the Books and Brews set-up.
- Organizational Highlights – June and July 2025

ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE and JULY 2025

Library Program Highlights

Outdoor Summer Movie Series: “Kung Fu Panda 4” and “Paddington in Peru”



NWL’s summer movie series got underway on June 6 when 139 people gathered outdoors to enjoy games, popcorn and a screening of “King Fu Panda 4.” An energetic crowd of 195 filled the backyard for “Paddington in Peru” on July 18. Special acknowledgment goes to the Friends Foundation for their support of all the library’s summer programs, as well as the material and technical support of the City of Worthington Department of Parks and Recreation for loan of the movie screen, projection equipment and sound system! “Moana 2” closes out the series on August 15.

Dragon Crafts

On June 8, Lead Librarian Meredith Richards held a Dragon Crafts program for 56 people at OWL. Kids and parents made color-changing dragon clan bracelets, scaly dragon eggs, “How To Train Your Dragon” Toothless masks and other fun creations. One attendee mentioned that her grandchild, usually nervous at large group events, had been looking forward to the program for several weeks. She thanked the library for being such a welcoming and accessible place and said that her grandchild had a wonderful time and that being able to stay for the entire program was a big personal success for them.

Fun with Lego

An indoor Fun with Lego session brought 63 kids and families to NWL on June 9. This drop-in creative play program is just right for Lego and Duplo enthusiasts and was a great way to beat the heat.

Tada Magician



On June 10, Library Associate Hannah Melcher hosted the Tada Magician at OWL. The meeting room was packed with 140 attendees of all ages. There were 120 people in the audience when the performer visited WPK on June 25. Both sessions included laughs, a disappearing and re-appearing ring, a live rabbit and more. At WPK, most people stayed past the show to get balloon animals, with caregivers enjoying the time to chat with each other and children dancing around waving their balloons.

Animal Portraits with Pastels



On June 11, 43 people attended WPK's Animal Portraits with Pastels workshop, led by artist Becky Gehrisch. Children and adults learned the basics of layering chalk pastels, shapes, light, details and more, then put it all together to create their own unique animal portraits.

Performance Dogs of Ohio



On June 12, NWL hosted Performance Dogs of Ohio and 207 attendees! The excited crowd watched as dogs performed high-flying entertainment, incorporating frisbee discs with agility, tricks, stunts, high jumping and freestyle dance. Cheers and applause for the canines filled the packed backyard as the trainers got the audience actively involved with the show. One family stopped by the children's desk afterwards to say how much they enjoyed the event and hoped it would return next summer: "We can't believe we got to see this at the library!"

Come on, Barbie, Let's Go Party!



On June 21, Librarian Ria Vimal hosted Come on, Barbie, Let's Go Party! at OWL, which welcomed over 50 attendees. Patrons rotated through stations inspired by Barbie's many careers, including a fossil dig, an ocean rescue game, a paper airplane contest and an X-ray speed puzzle. Participants also made matching friendship bracelets and decorated miniature books, dresses and skirts for their Barbie dolls. One young patron, proudly wearing a Barbie shirt, expressed that they would be sure to attend the next Barbie program.

Will It Waffle?

On June 26, Librarian Liz Corsi hosted a Will it Waffle? program for 32 kids and their caregivers. Kids created their own waffles with a variety of ingredients ranging from the expected chocolate chips and blueberries to the very unexpected Flaming Hot Cheetos and Sour Patch Kids. They could also make their own butter out of cream to top their waffle creations. One child declared that it was "the best library program I've ever been to" as she ate her candy- and cereal-filled waffle. Winner of the most interesting creation went to, not a waffle, but what the creator called Flaming Hot Butter, which, surprisingly, turned out to be hot pink.

Bloom Buddies



On June 28, Librarian LaNesha Sutherland hosted Bloom Buddies at WPK. The 32 attendees planted begonias in terracotta pots they decorated with acrylic paints and gems. An unfortunate power outage didn't derail the program; it continued, illuminated by natural light. Many patrons expressed how nice it was to attend under the circumstances.

Hervé Tullet Art Workshop



On July 8, Library Associate Laela Tague-Behler presented a Hervé Tullet-style art workshop for preschool-aged children at WPK. Twenty-eight people joined in for a flower-meadow painting. The children were delighted to paint with all the colors and figure out what happens when colors were mixed. Everyone seemed to enjoy imaginative and free-play painting time.

Columbus Zoo Adventure



On July 9, the Columbus Zoo visited WPK, sharing penguin, owl and tortoise ambassador animals with 133 attendees. Many excited children expressed how much they enjoyed seeing and learning about the animals.

Tie Dye in July



It was a bright and colorful morning on July 12 when Librarian April Overly hosted Tie Dye in July in NWL's backyard. Sixty patrons gathered to tie dye shirts, bags, even shoes. Several shared how grateful they are for this annual program, saying "I've always wanted to try this, and this was the perfect chance!" and "I keep wanting to tie dye my things but never get all the stuff together to do it, so thank you for doing all this!"

Learn About Ranked Choice Voting



On July 9, Librarian April Overly hosted an informational program about ranked choice voting at NWL. Speaker Chris Anderson from Rank the Vote Ohio explained the process and welcomed lively discussion from 14 attendees. Patrons appreciated the information and the opportunity to connect over a nonpartisan issue.

Pet Rocks



During Librarian Libby Vasey's July 12 program Pet Rocks, families could make both a pet rock and a habitat for it out of recycled materials. Held at WPK, 28 patrons braved a thunderstorm to add a new stony friend to their family, and creativity abounded.

Build Marble Roller Coasters!

On July 13, Library Associate Nick Spence facilitated the Build Marble Roller Coasters! program at OWL. Using tape, pool noodles, cardboard and marble run parts, families built custom coasters and sent marbles on perilous test runs. By program's-end, 37 participants popped in to see what they could engineer together.

Leaping Lizards



On July 15, 112 excited patrons visited OWL to learn about snakes, skinks, lizards and even Madagascar hissing cockroaches! Attendees were able to touch and hold the animals; one young patron made sure her doll pet the boa constrictor, too. Many caregivers mentioned how glad they were we had a program like this for their reptile enthusiasts.

Fair Crafts



On July 18 at OWL, Library Associate Julie McIntosh hosted a Fair Crafts program for 58 patrons. Several process art fair projects were on the make-it menu, including fireworks painting, sweet corn Duplo painting, cotton candy painting, a fingerprint Ferris wheel and an origami pig corner bookmark.

Squishmallow Party



“This is a smashing hit,” said one parent of the 85 squishmallow fans and families who attended NWL’s craft event. On July 26, these families joined Library Associate Kathy Irvin and two volunteers for painting, “walking” squishmallow cup making, bookmark designing and crown construction. Many happy faces and fun squishmallows were seen with colorful squishmallow paintings and unique bookmarks.

Service Highlights

Summer Reading Participation

This summer we piloted signing up all students at three Worthington elementary schools for the Summer Reading Club (SRC). This partnership with Worthington Schools is part of our initiative to bring the summer reading program to a wider and more diverse audience. We signed up 1,279 students at Colonial Hills, Liberty and Slate Hill elementary schools. Since we visited these schools in May, we did not conduct SRC-related schoolage outreach this summer.

Age/Location	2024 Totals	2025 Totals	% Difference
Adults (19 and up)	2074	2164	+4 %
NWL	778	788	
OWL	954	1016	
WPK	342	360	
Big kids (6-11)	2985	4339	+45 %
NWL	1311	1732	
OWL	1130	1614	
WPK	544	993	
Little kids (5 & under)	1827	1403	-23 %
NWL	717	504	
OWL	826	558	
WPK	284	341	
Teens (12-18)	874	830	-5 %
NWL	385	337	
OWL	348	350	
WPK	141	143	
Outreach	941	475	-50 %
Daycare	506	457	
School age	435	N/A	
Grand Total	8701	9211	+6 %

Community Engagement Highlights

Outreach Librarian Desi Thomas and Human Resources Coordinator Fevean Keflom took the Pop-Up Library to the Worthington Alliance of Black Families and Educators Juneteenth event, held on June 7 at McCord Middle School. Sixty people stopped by to check out books, learn about the Pop-Up Library and play a memory game featuring notable Black Americans.

The Pop-Up Library made several stops at Slate Hill Elementary and Wilson Hill Elementary in June to visit students enrolled in summer school. At Slate Hill, 170 students and, at Wilson Hill, 150 students checked out books to keep in their summer classroom. We returned in the Pop-Up

Library at the end of summer school to collect the books and encourage students to visit our buildings. Outreach Librarian Desi Thomas also visited each site for readalouds. Students were very excited to check out the books and teachers and principals raved about the opportunity. We were already asked to come back next year!

On July 24, we partnered with Worthington Parks and Recreation for a program at East Granville Road Park. Outreach Services Coordinator Gabrielle Rathge and Outreach Librarian Desi Thomas took the Pop-Up Library and storytime materials, while Parks and Rec provided a craft and popsicles. One woman stopped by to tell us she lives across the street and saw the Pop-Up Library, so came over. She explained that her grandchildren would be visiting soon and wanted to know where she could take them to see the Pop-Up. When she learned we would be at a neighborhood event while her grandkids were in town, she was ecstatic!

Gabrielle and Desi took the Pop-Up Library to the Worthington Meadows community near Slate Hill on July 22. Twenty-five people visited while they were parked in a cul-de-sac. Children sat on blankets to look at books and color and adults came to check out books. Several children remembered staff from recent summer school visits, with one girl talking about the book she had checked out there. One woman yelled out her window as she drove by, "This is awesome! What a great idea!"

Patron Highlights

Patron Angela Vitale left NWL the following 5-Star Google Business review: "Probably the largest storytime I've seen, but handled well and smoothly! The library has a beautiful story castle garden space for story time with doors and partial walls. It's a great set up for kids. The kid's book area is right outside the storytime space so when you are done you can easily pick up a book (or five). There are lots of benches and some chairs in the space for adults who can't get up and down to the floor easily. There is a nice rug for the kids to sit on. Like most storytime there is a mix of movement, songs, rhymes, and reading books. It's great for kids to learn how to interact with others their age."

Patron Jeff R. left WPK the following 5-Star Google Business review: "Needed printing. Librarians were very helpful."

Patron Melody G. left OWL the following 5-star Google Business review: "Beautiful, resourceful and quiet."

A patron visiting OWL's children's department was returning a Launchpad and brought it to the desk to tell staff how much he and his daughter had loved it. He said, "My daughter can tell time now!" They have been driving to OWL from across the city just to browse our Launchpad selection.

As a mom and son were loading up a backpack full of books one evening at NWL, mom told staff, "This has been his happy place all summer long. For his 10th birthday he wanted to be able to bike to the library by himself and he's been coming and going with his backpack full of books ever since. He's read so many books this summer and has had so much fun. He loves it here!" Later they stopped by the library's Teen Art Contest Gallery Show after he had circled it in his copy of the library's newsletter that he keeps in his backpack.

Recently a four-year-old was in NWL children's area with his Gigi (grandma). Staff helped him find ALL the books. Lead Librarian Stephanie helped them find Magic School Bus books and a

ton of other picture books. Each time he received a book, he piled them into his grandma's arms. Gigi finally said, "I don't think we can take many more, these are getting heavy and we will need a wheelbarrow." The child looked directly at Stephanie and very sweetly and sincerely asked, "Excuse me, but do you have any wheelbarrows we can use?"

Staff Highlights



On June 12, Ohio Library Council Director of Professional Development Laurie Miller recognized Staff Development Coordinator **Jenn Eyer** at OLC's Unconventional to Conventional Conference. Jenn served as chair of the planning committee.



On July 25, HRIS Manager **Amy Brown** participated in a panel discussion on alternative careers for writers during the Thurber House Teen Writing Intensive. Amy shared information about working at the Library and highlighted free resources writers can access from their public library. At left, Amy leads an icebreaker at the start of the presentation.

On July 31, HR Coordinator **Fevean Keflom** participated in the YWCA's Racial Justice Challenge Round Table. YWCA staff and central Ohio community leaders discussed themes such as Age of Mis/Disinformation, The American Dream, Interpersonal Racism and Racialized Crime.

Theresa Jaung, NWL circulation aide, has announced her retirement. She has decided to retire to spend more time with her family. "Thank you all for your help and guidance during my service at the library. I will miss you all." Her last day was July 18.

Kathy Irvin, NWL youth services library associate since June 13, 2022, has been appointed to NWL youth services librarian effective August 31. Kathy's work experience includes book seller for Half Price Books (2017-2022) and teacher at Annehurst Elementary School (2012-2017). Kathy earned her MLIS from Kent State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Purdue University.

Amanda Kustomo, WPK circulation assistant since July 2, 2017, has been appointed to WPK circulation team leader effective August 31. Amanda began her career at Worthington Libraries as WPK circulation aide on January 23, 2017; and she was also a volunteer at WPK. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from The Ohio State University.

Ulrike Xanthakis, OWL circulation aide, has announced her retirement. Ulrike's last day will be September 30.

The **Spanish Club Affinity Group** was formed in June 2024 to help with a rising interest among staff members to learn and practice Spanish together. The group was formed and is led by Lead Librarian Hilary Harlan with help from Systems Administrator Sam Lewis. Meeting once per month on Teams has given members increased confidence and fluency, leading to improved interactions with patrons. Some examples of these interactions include communicating options in Spanish to a patron when the electricity (including internet) was out at WPK one day in May; signing a patron up for a library card, speaking completely in Spanish;

translating movement instructions at a daycare after noticing there were Spanish-speaking kids in the group.

- State Biennium Budget
- ALA Annual Conference Memo

Finance Operations

- Finance Report – June and July 2025
- Meeder Investment Report

Personnel

Appointment	Position	Department	Location	Repl/ New	Date
Kathryn Irvin	librarian	youth services	NWL	R	08/31/25
Amanda Kustomo	circulation team leader	circulation	WPK	R	08/31/25

A Finance/Operations Committee meeting is being scheduled for November to discuss the budget and appropriations for 2026.

The Planning/Library Services Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 4, at 8:30 a.m. to discuss the Master Facility Plan.

Mr. Saverimuttu provided an update on the trustee search process. The application deadline is Tuesday, September 30. Two applications have been submitted.

The next Board Governance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8, at 8 a.m. in the Director's office to review applications for the trustee position.

Ms. Dembowski moved with a second by Ms. Poklar, to approve RESOLUTION #08-02-25 to approve two end-tables with lamps, a triangle table, two small round tables, two children's tablet tables, eight wooden chairs, a counter-height round computer table and two standard round computer tables to be sold at auction or donated as surplus furniture and equipment.

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

Ms. Herbers notified the Board that a Records Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 6 p.m. with the regular board meeting immediately following in the meeting room at Old Worthington Library.

A motion was made by Ms. Grieser with a second by Ms. Saputra to approve RESOLUTION #08-03-25 to approve the revised Bylaws of the Worthington Public Library.

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

Ms. Poklar moved and Ms. Grieser second to approve RESOLUTION #08-04-25 to adopt the revised Selection of Board Members policy, effective 9/30/2025.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Grieser and seconded by Ms. Dembowski to approve RESOLUTION #08-05-25 to approve the Annual Agreement between Worthington Libraries and Friends Foundation of Worthington Libraries.

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

The Outreach & Partnership Between Worthington Libraries & Worthington Schools January-June 2025 Report was presented to the Board.

Ms. Dembowski moved with a second by Ms. Grieser to approve RESOLUTION #08-06-25 to honor Theresa Jaung.

WHEREAS, Theresa began work at Worthington Libraries as library aide in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Theresa was appointed to circulation aide in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Theresa is known as a ray of sunshine with infectious joy and a smile lighting up any room she's in, encouraging everyone to do their best, making work even more enjoyable; and

WHEREAS, Theresa is also known as an expert with shelf reading lists; and

WHEREAS, Theresa's colleagues describe her as an excellent teacher, genuinely committed to doing her job well, taking pride in being as productive as possible, always supportive, positive, friendly, kind, funny and helpful; and

WHEREAS, Theresa is appreciated for checking in on the well-being of colleagues, her willingness to help out where needed and jumping in without being asked; and

WHEREAS, Theresa, for 22 years, had been an exemplary employee.

Now, therefore, be it resolved on this 19th day of August 2025 that the Board of Trustees of Worthington Libraries formally offers Theresa its gratitude and appreciation for excellent work and absolute best wishes for continued success.

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

Ms. Herbers moved the adjournment of the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Bank Balance as of July 31, 2025: \$24,672,536.29

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