



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2025

The regular meeting of the Worthington Libraries Board of Trustees was held Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 6:03 p.m. in the meeting room at Old Worthington Library with Joan Herbers presiding. Members present were Kyla Dembowski, Emma Mulvaney, Abigail Poklar, Haze Saputra and Joe Saverimuttu. Also present were Lauren Robinson, Director/CEO; Jeremie Stevens, CFO; Monica Baughman, Director of Support Services; Lisa Fuller, Director of Community Engagement; Theresa Messenger, Executive Assistant; Becky Princehorn, President of Friends Foundation of Worthington Libraries (left at 6:09 p.m.) and Sam Lewis, Systems Administrator.

There was no public participation

Becky Princehorn, President of the Friends Foundation, provided an update on recent and upcoming activities. The Friends will participate in the Worthington Community Engagement Fair on October 29 at the Griswold Center. The August book sale generated just under \$3,500 in revenue, which the organization was pleased with. Tickets for the annual *Books & Brews* fundraiser will go on sale beginning October 1. The Friends are actively seeking event sponsors and donations for the silent auction. Additionally, they will take part in a fundraising event at Hills Market on October 15.

A motion was made by Ms. Poklar and seconded by Ms. Dembowski to adopt **RESOLUTION #09-01-25** to accept and approve the items under the consent agenda at one time.

- Minutes – Regular Meeting – August 19, 2025
- Fiscal Officer's Report of the Payment of Bills for August in the amount of \$1,094,906.08
- Fiscal Officer's Financial Statement and Investment Report for August 2025
- Gifts for August
General Fund –\$547.03 from the Robert T. Farley Trust Fund at the Columbus Foundation and \$1,685.00 from the Betty Jane Meyer Fund of the Columbus Foundation

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

The following information items were presented:

- Director's Report – August 2025

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

- Began the fourth and final phase of our CliftonStrengths training
- Continued working with the Workplace Agreement team on launching the Workplace Agreement on Staff Day

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Attended MAC Board Meeting
- Attended ETM meeting

FUTURE PLANNING

- Worked on new budget document – refined 2026 Action Plan

LIBRARY NEWS

- OLC will begin hosting a series of regional meetings for library directors and fiscal officers. OLC will provide advocacy training and practical talking points.

August 2025

Key Performance Indicators

	Current month	Change from last month	Change from last year	Sparkline
	August 2025	July 2025	August 2024	January 2023 – August 2025
Total first-time circulation	71,821	-16% ▼	-12% ▼	
- Browse circulation	44,223	-22% ▼	-13% ▼	
- Hold circulation	27,598	-4% ●	-9% ▼	
Digital circulation	80,890	-1% ●	34% ▲	
Total door counts	56,358	-13% ▼	-2% ●	
- OWL door counts	27,708	-7% ▼	2% ●	
- NWL door counts	16,902	-21% ▼	-7% ▼	

	Current month	Change from last month	Change from last year	Sparkline
	August 2025	July 2025	August 2024	January 2023 – August 2025
- WPK door counts	11,748	-15% ▼	-3% ●	
Program attendance	1,140	-74% ▼	3% ●	
Meeting room reservations	66	27% ▲	35% ▲	
Study room reservations	1,355	-15% ▼	8% ▲	
Website sessions	98,252	-2% ●	-7% ▼	
Pages printed	81,822	-3% ●	-72% ▼	

➤ Organizational Highlights – August 2025

ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

AUGUST 2025

Library Program Highlights

Outdoor Summer Movie Series: “Moana 2”

NWL closed out its summer movie series with a screening of “Moana 2” on August 15, attended by 138 people. It was another successful outdoor movie season with a combined attendance of 472 total patrons among the three outdoor movies! 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!

Don’t Let the Pigeon Plan a Party!



On August 2, Library Associate Lex Bright hosted a Don’t Let the Pigeon Plan a Party event at NWL for 69 patrons, who made Pigeon and Mo Willems-themed crafts, played games and met

the Pigeon in person. Kids lit up the moment they saw the costumed character and, as they finished their pigeon crowns and Elephant and Piggie puppets, they would proudly show him what they made. It was adorable. "This is brilliant. Thank you so much for everything you do," one patron told Lexi. Another told them, "You've made my daughter's week. We absolutely adore the Pigeon."

Rabbit Rearing at the Library



Library Associate Laela Tague-Behler presented Rabbit Rearing at the Library on August 18 at WPK. Jake the rabbit helped Bring the Farm to You educators explain rabbit care to 27 bunny-loving patrons, then Jake stayed at the library for the following two weeks. The program gave so many children the opportunity to interact with a rabbit and the snuggle bunny's visit also boosted staff morale.

Plant Swap



On August 23, Librarian Libby Vasey and Library Associate Sarah Norman ran a Plant Swap program at WPK. Twenty-seven enthusiastic patrons attended, exchanged advice and plant stories along with their plants and continuously asked how often the program occurred and when it would happen again. The event was such a success that many plants were left over and put on a cart near the library entrance for anyone to take. Within two days, all remaining plants were gone.

Let's Make Sock Puppets!

On August 23, Library Associate Emmy Wolfe facilitated the Let's Make Sock Puppets! program. Held at OWL for 46 patrons, attendees used fun materials to create their own unique puppets and learned how to use different voices and techniques to bring their new puppets to life!

Service Highlights

Passport Walk-In Hours

OWL hosted Passport Walk-In Hours on August 2 with 48 people in attendance. Our passport agents (Alison Nadvornik, Annie Christensen, Cora Slack, Josh Nickler, Karah Power, Libby Vasey, Meredith Richards, and Ria Vimal) processed 20 passport applications and answered questions for several attendees about what forms and documents are needed for future appointments. Many patrons shared how appreciative they are of being able to get their passport application processed at the Library as opposed to other locations such as the post office.

Community Engagement Highlights



The Pop-up Library visited the Worthington Interfaith Neighbors (WIN) annual Festival of Faiths and Nations on August 19. HR Coordinator Fevean Keflom, Outreach Services Coordinator Gabrielle Rathge and Outreach Librarian Desiree Thomas highlighted nonfiction and fiction titles from our international collection. Wellness books in Spanish were included based on requests from patrons who use the Worthington Resource Pantry. Fevean, who serves as the library's WIN liaison, put together a table showcasing the food, spices, clothing and jewelry of her

native country, Eritrea. She also led an interactive dance! Image courtesy of local photographer and WIN volunteer, Karyn Nicoll.

HR Coordinator Fevean Keflom coordinated a listening tour for members of the library's DEI Champions Team to Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) and Huckleberry House on August 19. The group, which included Circulation Team Leader Thad Pollard, Library Associate Meredith Whittaker and lead librarians Karah Power, Kate Shumaker and Cora Slack, will present their experiences and recommendations for sustainable partnerships at Staff Day 2025.

The Pop-Up Library visited Zaftig Brewing during their August 28 jazz night. Lead Librarian Cora Slack and Outreach Services Coordinator Gabrielle Rathge engaged with 11 people, all of whom were excited to see the Pop-up Library there. Two young girls were so happy they tried to tip Cora and Gabrielle before they left.

Pop-Up Library August outreach: 13 events, 653 people

Patron Highlights

OWL received the following online reviews:

- Patron Linda E. left the following Google review: "Always a welcoming place"
- Patron Sahin left the following Google review: "Very good"
- Patron Erica left the following Yelp review: "The best library! Great resources, friendly staff, and a welcoming atmosphere."

Staff Highlights

Sarah Norman, WPK adult services library associate, has announced her resignation. Sarah has accepted a position as adult services librarian at Bexley Public Library. "The past seven years have been an amazing experience. I appreciate the opportunities I've gotten at WPL to grow in programming, reference, reader's advisory, and strategic planning. I am grateful for the amazing people I've gotten to work with throughout my years here. I hope to stay in touch." Sarah's last day was September 9.

Tranea' Jones, WPK youth services librarian, has announced her resignation. "Thank you for the opportunity to work within the organization." Her last day was September 12.

Sarah Helke, social media coordinator, has announced her resignation. "I have truly loved working at the library alongside such a wonderful team of people. It was not an easy decision, and I will be forever grateful for the opportunities and memories I gained from my time at Worthington Libraries! Thank you for everything." Sarah's last day was September 19.

Finance/Support Services

- Finance Report

Personnel

- No Personnel Appointments

A Finance/Operations Committee Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, at 8 a.m. in the Director's Office to discuss the 2026 budget and appropriations.

Ms. Poklar and Lauren Robinson provided an update on the Master Facility Plan from the Planning/Library Services Committee meeting held on September 4. The committee identified several strategic focus areas and prioritized key projects for each building.

Mr. Saverimuttu updated the board on the trustee search. The application period is open until Tuesday, September 30. A Board Governance Committee Meeting to review applications is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8, at 8 a.m. in the Director's office. Currently, nine applications have been submitted.

A motion was made by Ms. Mulvaney and seconded by Ms. Saputra to adopt **RESOLUTION #09-02-25** to approve two round metal trash cans to be sold at auction or donated as surplus furniture and equipment

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

Lauren Robinson led a discussion on the Board Retreat. There were no dates in November that the whole board was available. It was decided to move the retreat to January 2026 and to have a yearly retreat in January thereafter.

Ms. Poklar moved with a second by Ms. Dembowski to adopt **RESOLUTION #09-03-25** to accept the amounts and rates as determined by the Franklin County Budget Commission.

WHEREAS, the Board, in accordance with the provisions of law, has previously adopted a Tax Budget for the next succeeding fiscal year commencing January 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, The Budget Commission of Franklin County, Ohio, has certified its action thereon to this Board together with an estimate by the County Auditor of the rate of each tax necessary to be levied by this Board, and what part thereof is without, and what part within, the ten mill tax limitation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Board of Library Trustees of Worthington Public Library, Franklin County, Ohio, that the amounts and rates, as determined by the Budget Commission in its certification, be and the same are hereby accepted; and be it further

RESOLVED, That there be and is hereby levied on the tax duplicate of said Library the rate of each tax necessary to be levied within and without the ten mill limitation for the tax year 2025 (the collection year 2026) as follows:

Fund	Amount Approved by Budget Commission Inside 10 Mill Limitation	Amount to be Derived from Levies Outside 10 Mill Limitation	Estimate of Full Tax Rate to Be Levied	
			Inside 10 Mill Limit	Outside 10 Mill Limit
General Fund		\$8,725,542.17		4.80
Total	\$0.00	\$8,725,542.17	\$0.00	4.80

and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Fiscal Officer of this Board be and is hereby directed to certify a copy of this Resolution to the County Auditor of said County.

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

A draft of the 2026 Board meeting dates was reviewed.

A motion by Ms. Mulvaney and seconded by Ms. Saputra to adopt **RESOLUTION #09-04-25** to honor Ulrike Xanthakis

WHEREAS, Ulrike began work at Worthington Libraries as library aide in 2000; and

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

WHEREAS, Ulrike is known as perennially kind and tirelessly dedicated, with an unflappable demeanor and positive attitude, even in the busiest of times; and

WHEREAS, Ulrike is also known for her stories and subtle, but quick-witted sense of humor; and

WHEREAS, Ulrike's colleagues describe her as a joy to work with, compassionate, patient and dependable; and

WHEREAS, Ulrike is appreciated for her steady diligence and goodwill, gladly pitching in to help out with anything; and

WHEREAS, Ulrike, for 25 years, has been an exemplary employee.

Now, therefore, be it resolved on this 16th day of September 2025 that the Board of Trustees of Worthington Libraries formally offers Ulrike its gratitude and appreciation for excellent work and very best wishes for her retirement.

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

Ms. Herbers moved the adjournment of the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Bank Balance as of August 31, 2025: \$24,711,242.57

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