

Minutes
New Berlin Public Library Board Meeting
May 19, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.
New Berlin Public Library
Marion Onesti Board Room

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Marek at 6:02 P.M.

Attendance:

Members Present: Ruth Bock, Chuck Garrigues, Dolores Greenawalt, Charlotte Kroupa, Nate Jung, Jill Kawala, John Marek, Barb Uhen, and Patti Orzel

Staff Members Present: Natalie Beacom, Director

Others Present: None

Friends of the Library (FOL): No report.

Consent Agenda Items:

The following items were presented on the consent agenda for approval:

- A. Minutes from Monday, April 21, 2025
- B. Next meeting date: Monday, June 16, 2025
- C. Bills and Invoices through April 30, 2025

Trustee Garrigues made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. It was seconded by Trustee Kawala. The motion passed 9-0.

Administrative Reports:

President's Report: None

Director's Report: Director Beacom's written report is included with the agenda packet. It is available on line at the City of New Berlin's website. Director Beacom added that The New Berlin Public Library recently hosted a meeting of the Directors of the Bridges Library System. It was announced that Karol Kennedy, System Director, is retiring. Her replacement is Brittany Larson, currently the Director of the Muskego Library. Federal grants, awarded in 2025, will be funded through the remainder of the year. This does not have a major impact on the NBPL, but it is significant to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and smaller libraries throughout the state.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Director's Evaluation-Closed Session – Postponed until next month's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. *2025 Allowable Costs* – The worksheet verifying the allowable costs for Waukesha County Libraries in the Bridges System was signed and submitted by Director Beacom and President Marek.

- B. *Trustee Essentials: How Libraries Change Lives* – There were technical difficulties in the link sent to the Trustees. Director Beacom will work to correct the situation.
- C. 2025-2028 Strategic Plan – Trustee Kroupa moved to approve the 2025 – 2028 Strategic Plan. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bock. The motion passed 9 – 0. Strategies include marketing and targeting underserved audiences. Enhancing the space on the second floor is a major focus. Suggestions include replacing carpeting with laminate, improving signage, and adding technology to the Maker Space (i.e. embroidery machines). Suggestions to enhance the outdoor space include a music garden and the addition of rocking chairs. The Bridges System recently completed a 360 - degree filming of the library to enhance accessibility for disabled patrons.
- D. Waukesha County Library Standards Certification – Trustee Kroupa moved to approve Waukesha County Library Standards Certification for 2025. The motion was seconded by Trustee Kawala. The motion passed 9 – 0.
- E. NBPL Employee Handbook – A copy of the Handbook was shared with the trustees as it is one of the standards required for certification.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Trustee Jung reminded the trustees to complete survey regarding the nomination of officers scheduled for the next meeting of the Board in June.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Kroupa made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Trustee Jung. The motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Orzel, Secretary