

**Kankakee Public Library July 21st, 2026
Board Meeting Minutes**

The meeting of the Kankakee Public Library Board of Trustees began at 5:30pm.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Geraldine Adams, Elizabeth Barbosa, Vena Burkes, Bruce Conway, Mike Gall, Dennis Saulsberry, Gerri Suddeth

Absent: Bonnie Brewer, Ruth Hatcher

Also present were: Allison Beasley, Library Director, Camille Rose, Assistant Director of Library Engagement, Vicki Forquer, Assistant Director of Library Resources

Review of Minutes: The June minutes were reviewed. Gall made a motion to approve the minutes and Burkes seconded the motion. The board approved the minutes unanimously.

Public Comment: None.

Communications: Director Beasley presented the June statistics to the board and the Lions Pride staff newsletter.

Bills and Invoices and Financial Report: The library bills and invoices for June were presented to the board. Gall inquired about large check amounts to City of Kankakee. Director Beasley stated they are for payroll. Director Beasley reported that there are new expenses but no new income as property taxes have not yet been received but expected within the next few days. Library has received some income with book sale, fines and fees, and grant applied for by Youth Services Supervisor Mary. For expenses the library is about 17% spent so far. Burkes motioned to approve the bills and invoices for the library in June, and Barbosa seconded. The board approved unanimously.

The June Kankakee Events Partnership bills and invoices were presented to the board. Director Beasley mentioned that all the checks are not just for MusicFest but also Event Partnerships events like Friday Night Concert Series and Sandwiches with a Side of Jam. Suddeth inquired about artist payment and what the amount is based on. Director Beasley stated there is a goal of what can be paid per slot but it can vary. Director Beasley reported that there has been about \$82,200 in sponsorship income brought in for MusicFest. Expenses have primarily been checks for events like Sandwiches with a Side of Jam, etc. Suddeth motioned to approve the June KEP bills and invoices, and Adams seconded. The board approved unanimously.

Director's Report: Director Beasley reported the following: Due to the change in the amount received from the State Library for the Equalization Grant the budget had to be reworked to make cuts. Last month the deficit was about \$190,000 it has now been worked down to \$86,000. Met with supervisors individually to discuss what the cuts would look like and how it would impact their departments. Provided all supervisors with new budgets for whole library. Also discovered an error City of Kankakee made in Spring of 2025 with employee insurance charges. In 2025 insurance was offered to two employees with dependents where the Library paid for the dependents, which is not the setup the Library normally has. City will refund Library 50% of those expenses.

The ESU department built the Library an arch that is displayed in the garden, and did aesthetic improvements. Supervisor Mary has started working on the mural wall in the garden supplied by grant funds. Once the mural is done a ribbon cutting will be announced. Part-time staff hours were reduced to be aligned with last year's fiscal budget, a set amount of hours have been given to supervisors to dole out. YS Summer Reading program was incredible with great numbers and participation, along with Circulation and Adult Services running the Adult Summer Reading program.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Amended FY 26/27 budget was presented to the board. Conway inquired if elevator repairs are still included in the budget, Director Beasley stated yes it has not changed. Burkes motioned to approve the amended budget, and Gall seconded. The board approved the amended budget unanimously. Adult Services would like to sell individual postage stamps to the public, presented to board for approval. Request has been postponed until the fee amount has been decided officially by department.

Executive Session: There was no executive session.

Barbosa motioned to adjourn at 6:30pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Camille Rose and Shanelle Robinson.