

**Carmel Clay Public Library
Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
April 28, 2025**

**Board Room
5:30 p.m.**

Present: Vice President Stephanie Kim, Treasurer Ije Dike-Young, Secretary Casey Wilson; Members Rosie Foulke, John Williams; Director Bob Swanay; Assistant Director Beth Meyer; Managers Lisa Dick, Sara O'Sha, Christy Walker

Guests: Ann O'Hara, Kari Woodard, Daphne Uche-Ejekwu

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Vice President S. Kim called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. All in attendance were welcomed.

AGENDA

R. Foulke moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by C. Wilson, and the motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included Minutes from the March 24, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting, Claims and Warrants, Budget Book, and March 24, 2025 Personnel and Policy Minutes.

J. Williams moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by R. Foulke, and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

No items were removed from the consent agenda.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

B. Swanay said the property across the street at 80 Richland Avenue is for sale. Previous library board members expressed an interest in acquiring the property before we renovated and expanded the library. For this reason, B. Swanay wanted to see what the current board of trustees thought about the property. B. Swanay stated he questioned whether the value of what we would get would match what it is currently listed for. There was discussion about the possibility of additional parking or using the area for green space. It was decided we have no need for the property now.

J. Williams moved to receive the Director's Report, seconded by C. Wilson, and the motion carried unanimously.

TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORT

There were no reports.

STAFF REPORTS

There were no staff reports.

TEEN LIBRARY COUNCIL REPORT

Tenn Library Council member Daphne Uche-Ejekwu stated last month they planned for the Nerdfest program on May 3rd. They gathered and assembled craft supplies for various age

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
April 28, 2025
Page 2

groups for Nerdfest. Some crafts offered included dragon eggs and build your own board game. Daphne attended a meeting where they discussed ideas of possible improvements to make the library and the teen area better. An idea discussed was to provide cubbies to put belongings in, so they do not take up seating space. B. Meyer stated that every group from the Teen Library Council strategic spent an hour with her providing valuable input. There were 46 teens who participated. B. Swanay stated that the sessions were a prelude to the official planning that we are kicking off. The library board will have a planning session with a consultant during the June meeting. B. Meyer said she would share the minutes of the teen planning committee with board members.

RENOVATION UPDATE

B. Swanay stated the water pump that was installed to get hot water to the other side of the building is working. The pump was the last major issue we were waiting on. Skillman revised their final pay out to incorporate the pump. The other items mentioned in the Director's Report are post project things we need to complete. We are working on replacing some of the old shades in the building in staff areas and the east side of the building. The shades don't work well, and they are not consistent with the new shades. There are also some areas in the building where the lighting needs to be improved, especially areas in the collection of the Adult Services Department. Additionally, the "Kids" sign above the entrance to the Youth Services area is in a shadowed area and, therefore, not very visible. For this reason, the sign will be lit up. The Holds area will also get additional lighting.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Privacy Policy – B. Swanay added some additional changes to the policy. The staff provided input to the updates. The changes are highlighted in the board packet. Some of the changes are minor. In addition, we changed the language of the study rooms to reflect the way they are being used now. There was a section added on Wi-Fi to make it explicit that the library itself is the only authorized entity to offer Wi-Fi to the public. We have twice the capacity of Wi-Fi than we did before renovation. There was a change to the section on video recording. The storage of camera footage of some of the newer cameras can be stored for up to 90 days.

C. Wilson moved to accept the changes to the Privacy Policy, seconded by R. Foulke, and the motion carried unanimously.

SB1 Impact – I. Dike-Young shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding Senate Bill 1. It will change the way property taxes are collected. It will also change the way local income taxes are

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
April 28, 2025
Page 3

taxed and distributed. The standard deduction for property taxes will be phased down from \$48,000 in 2025 to \$0 in 2031. The supplemental homestead deduction will increase to 66.7% by 2031. This impacts us because the total net assessed value of all homes in Carmel will decrease. This will most likely cause our tax rate to go up. We need to be prepared for this when we do the budget this year. In addition to that, there will be a tax credit for the lesser of 10 percent of the property tax bill or \$300 which will be a straight loss to us. Every homeowner will receive that additional credit. Homeowners 65 and over, disabled homeowners, and disabled veteran homeowners now get a credit instead of a deduction. Legislators tried to phase the changes in so that the impact does not hit us all at once. It is likely that they will change some things in the future. I. Dike-Young showed a sample tax bill of an average home in Indiana that shows the net assessed value will change over time. I. Dike-Young showed a slide depicting the estimate of how we could be impacted over the next three years, although we do not know how accurate the information will be. For 2026, we will have a loss of \$330,100; 2027 a loss of \$345,910; and 2028 a loss of \$364,640. I. Dike-Young believes these are losses attributable to the additional tax credits. There is also now a tax deduction for the 2 percent circuit breaker category which are farms and apartment homes. Also, the business personal property exemption will go from \$80,000 in 2025 to \$2,000,000 in 2027 for all new property placed in service. Furthermore, there used to be a Local Income Tax Council who set the local income tax rate. Local income tax collected was then distributed to all the units based on each unit's proportional share of the property tax revenue. Now, however, the county will set the rate. Municipal units with a population above 3,500 can set their own rate. The city of Carmel will be able to set their own rate. Non-municipal units like the library get a total maximum of .05 percent for each type of taxing unit. This aspect is what is causing the most uncertainty for us. B. Swanay said we must go back every year to ask for the county for libraries' percentage. We can ask for the maximum, but they do not have to give the maximum. The basis of distribution has also changed. It is now based on population which will negatively impact our library. Lastly, the percentage we can grow our levy by is capped at 4 percent in 2026. Without the cap, it would have been 5.6 percent in 2026. If you increase your levy at all, a public hearing is required to make sure taxpayers can voice any concerns.

Nominating Committee - The bylaw states, "A nominating committee shall be appointed by the president at the April meeting of the board. The committee shall include the current president, the immediate past two presidents, and the director." CCPL does not have the immediate past two presidents on the board currently. We need a nominating committee to propose a slate for the May board meeting. B. Swanay noticed on our current list of officers and committees, we had R. Foulke as being on the nominating committee. R. Foulke and C. Wilson agreed to being on the nominating committee. B. Swanay will send a proposed slate.

ADJOURN

S. Kim adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

Casey Wilson, Secretary
Board of Trustees
/jrm