



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Library Trustees of the La Grange Park Public Library District, January 21, 2026 was held at 7:00pm, at the La Grange Park Public Library, 555 N. La Grange Road, La Grange Park, IL 60526.

1. President Demes-O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Upon roll call the following were present: President Demes-O'Brien, Treasurer Hightower, Secretary Snow, and Trustees Gies, Krall, and Sifuentes. Absent: Vice-President Whitman. Also present were Executive Director Gabe Oppenheim and Patricia Harwood, Meeting Stenographer.
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Introduction of Visitor(s): None
5. Public Comment: None
6. Staff Reports: Director Oppenheim informed the Board that funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services has been restored. He explained that this will help the State Library continue their delivery services and also restore Trustee Snow's cataloging language project. He also mentioned that Cook County has been having some difficulty distributing tax monies due to their use of a new vendor. The library has thus far received approximately 40% of its expected funding. Oppenheim then updated the Board on the remaining items of the construction project. In November, the book drop, which recently received additional sheet metal, was dry after a heavy rainstorm. Leopardo Construction still needs to supply netting to keep birds out of the building and to stain bricks by the book drop. He finally discussed how activity within the library has picked up on all levels, including programming, story times, and reference questions.
7. Trustee reports: The board received a thank you note from Valerie Schoenberg, Circulation Assistant, for her birthday gift.
8. Gies motioned, seconded by Hightower, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed with 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent. Gies, Hightower, Sifuentes, Snow, and Demes-O'Brien.
 - a. Minutes of previous meeting(s)
 - b. Invoices to be paid in the amount of \$72,392.34
 - c. Checks from Wintrust Bank numbered: 38114-38193
9. Unfinished business: None
10. New Business:
 - a. Gies motioned, seconded by Krall, to approve the Per Capita Grant Application. Motion passed. All in favor.
 - b. Sifuentes motioned, seconded by Gies, to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with La Grange Public Library, Linda Sokol Francis Brookfield Library, and La Grange School District 102. Motion passed. All in favor.
 - c. Gies motioned, seconded by Hightower, to approve Bylaws of the Board of Library Trustees. Motion passed. All in favor.
 - d. Gies motioned, seconded by Krall, to approve quotation for Children's Department shelving. Motion passed. All in favor.
 - e. Snow motioned, seconded by Gies, to approve Trustee Krall as the OMA designee for 2026. Motion passed. All in favor.
11. Communications: (includes emails to the board) – none



12. Executive Session: Executive Session for Personnel Review 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) - Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. AND Personnel 5ILCS120/2(c)(1) - Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees. Gies motioned, seconded by Hightower to move into Executive session at 7:15pm. Motion passed. All in favor.
13. Gies motioned, seconded by Hightower, to reconvene into Regular session at 7:19pm. Motion passed. All in favor.
14. Final Action on Executive session-
 - a. Gies motioned, seconded by Krall, to eliminate verbatim closed session minutes. Motion passed. All in favor.
 - b. Snow motioned, seconded by Krall, to approve closed session minutes for June 18, 2025. Motion passed. All in favor.
15. No further business adjournment-Sifuentes motioned, seconded by Gies, to adjourn. Motion passed. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.