LA GRANGE PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

LIBRARY FOUNDATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Library Foundation Committee of the Board of Library Trustees of the La Grange Park Public Library District, September 16, 2026 was held at 6:00pm, at the La Grange Park Public Library, 555 N. La Grange Road, La Grange Park, IL 60526.

1. Trustee Krall called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Upon roll call the following were present: Vice-President Whitman and Trustees Gies and Krall
3. Public Comment: None
4. Discussion of Library Foundation

   a. The committee discussed next steps toward establishing a library foundation and agreed that the legal and organizational structure should be a standalone 501(c)(3) entity. Trustee Whitman noted she has a friend who recently established her own nonprofit and could provide guidance.

   b. The committee discussed a timeline for a soft launch, noting that IRS determination typically takes 3–6 months, sometimes longer, and that establishing a 501(c)(3) requires bylaws, its own board, insurance, and accounting infrastructure. Trustee Gies suggested setting goals in increments of a few months at a time, proposing six months as an example target.

   c. The committee discussed potential high-level donors, including Mr. Hurley and La Grange Park residents who are also local business owners, such as the owners of The Elm, Veni Vidi Val, and Sweet William, as candidates for seed donations. The committee discussed several fundraising events centered on community activities and education as a way to draw in donations. Trustees Gies and Whitman also proposed hosting a formal fundraiser event at the library.

   d. The committee reviewed a draft mission, vision, and case for support intended for use in fundraising and promotional materials, noting that it could also serve as a basis for the foundation's founding purpose. Trustee Gies advised against including the phrase "tax-based budget" in the draft, out of concern it could confuse residents into believing the library is already tax-funded and does not need additional support. Trustee Krall recommended language more specific to the library that reflects its current culture, architecture, and unique character.

   e. The committee reviewed past attempts to establish a foundation. Trustee Whitman noted that prior efforts had started and stopped multiple times over the years. Trustee Gies noted that successfully launching the foundation would be the most significant hurdle, after which the committee could transition responsibilities to foundation members.

   f. Finally, the committee discussed action items to be undertaken by members. Trustee Gies is to connect with lawyers and insurance brokers regarding the 501(c)(3) process. Trustee Whitman is to connect with her friend regarding nonprofit launches. Trustee Krall is to discuss library policies on grants, restricted gifts, endowment payout, and bequests and potential limitations on what a foundation can fund. All trustees are to research other library foundations and share ideas on logo and branding.
5. No further business adjournment-The meeting adjourned at 6:41pm.