

The Board of Trustees of the Eckhart Public Library met on May 14, 2025 at 6:02pm at the William H. Willennar Genealogy Center, 700 South Jackson Street, Auburn, IN. The media and public received proper notice, pursuant to I.C. § 5-14-1.5-5.

Vice President David Brown presided and called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Members of the Board of Trustees present by roll call were: David Brown, Connie Fullerton, Pete Kempf, Amy Norton, William Schaab. Absent: Barbara Morrow, Nora Schwartz

Also present: Executive Director Valerie Simmons, Business & Finance Manager Martha Rubrake, and Rebecca Mann, Technical Services & Finance Specialist.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Angela Mapes-Turner, Steve Graber

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Board Member Kempf moved to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2025 monthly meeting. Treasurer Schaab provided the second.

The motion to approve the April 9, 2025 minutes as presented carried 5 to 0 by roll call vote of the Board: Brown-aye; Fullerton-aye; Norton-aye; Kempf-aye; Schaab-aye; Schwartz-absent.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Schaab moved to approve the financial report as presented. Board Member Kempf provided the second.

The motion to approve the financial report as presented carried 5 to 0 by roll call vote of the Board: Brown-aye; Fullerton-aye; Norton-aye; Kempf-aye; Schaab-aye; Schwartz-absent.

CLAIMS AUTHORIZATION

Presented claims from April 10, 2025 through May 14, 2025 for the payment of payroll, EPL Operating, and EPL Gift & Memorial in the amount of \$143,772.68.

Board Member Norton moved to authorize payment of the vouchers as presented in the amount of \$143,772.68. Secretary Fullerton provided the second.

MAY 14, 2025 MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ECKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY (EPL).

The motion to approve the vouchers as presented carried 5 to 0 by roll call vote of the Board: Brown-aye; Fullerton-aye; Norton-aye; Kempf-aye; Schaab-aye; Schwartz- not present.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Simmons continues to monitor fiscal impacts resulting from SB 1: Property Tax Reform. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available.

DeKalb Central's Innovation/Special Ed Coach Kelly Hudson partnered with the library on a pilot native garden tour for McKenney-Harrison 2nd graders, hosted April 28 by Luke Martin and Lisa Conrad. Students focused on four native plants. This program will be system-wide for all 2nd graders next year.

McKenney-Harrison Elementary Tours began Monday, May 5 with every classroom coming for a tour of the library. One class received a bonus - Mayor Clark stopped by to sign up for a library card on Wednesday, May 7 and had the chance to greet one of the tour groups and answer some questions from the students.

The Local Author Fair on April 12 was a great success with 326 patrons that day! We had 17 authors, including the keynote speaker Angela Jackson-Brown.

The library is proud to partner with Eckhart Library Foundation for the kick-off event to EPL Art Week. *History of the Fountain and Cornerstone Commemoration* will be held Saturday, May 17 at 2:00 PM. Other events during Art Week include a book discussion, Fiber Arts Open House, Plein Air in the Park, and an Artist Spotlight featuring Sayaka Ganz on May 24.

Director Simmons proposed updates to the Collection Development Policy, Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form, and Display Policy.

Treasurer Schaab moved to authorize the Collection Development Policy as presented. Board Member Norton provided the second.

The motion to approve the Collection Development Policy as presented carried 5 to 0 by roll call vote of the Board: Brown-aye; Fullerton-aye; Norton-aye; Kempf-aye; Schaab-aye; Schwartz- not present.

Board Member Norton moved to authorize the Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form as presented. Treasurer Schaab provided the second.

The motion to approve the Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form as presented carried 5 to 0 by roll call vote of the Board: Brown-aye; Fullerton-aye; Norton-aye; Kempf-aye; Schaab-aye; Schwartz- not present.

Board Member Kempf moved to authorize the Display Policy as presented. Secretary Fullerton provided the second.

The motion to approve the Display Policy as presented carried 5 to 0 by roll call vote of the Board: Brown-aye; Fullerton-aye; Norton-aye; Kempf-aye; Schaab-aye; Schwartz- not present.

Personnel:

Rebecca Mann accepted the position of Financial Specialist beginning April 22, 2025. She will continue working with Technical Services along with this new position.

Luke Martin, Development & Capital Projects Manager, tendered his resignation effective May 9, 2025. He began his employment September 18, 2018. A farewell gathering to wish him well and thank him for leadership at EPL was held May 8, 2025 in the Assembly Room at Main.

The library is currently hiring for a parttime Maintenance Coordinator.

Gifts and Grants:

Eckhart Library Foundation has established a fund-raising campaign called *Worthy of Thirty*. It was presented to the public in a front page newspaper article in The STAR on April 18, 2025. Seven donations have been received at the library for this campaign: Linda and Stephen Kummerness; Sharon and Jerry Zonker; Kayleen Leonard; Karen and Maylon Rieke; Karen Griggs; Loraine Hartranft; Julie and Bill Heimach.

A monetary gift was received from the Wooley-4-Ewe Rug Hooking group in recognition of their ongoing use of our meeting room space. The donation will be used for art programming.

COMMUNICATIONS and CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

Board Member Nora Schwartz arrived at the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Peters Municipal Consultants has been contracted to work with the Library on an economic impact report that will be presented to the Board.

Finance Manager, Martha Rubrake, shared a comparison of bank interest rates and options for an additional bank account IC 5-13-8-9 (f). The board discussed the options and tabled a decision until a future meeting.

Auburn-Eckhart Public Library Board of Trustees meeting 5.14.2025.

NEW BUSINESS

President Barbara Morrow arrived at the meeting.

Eckhart Public Library's 115th anniversary of the cornerstone laying was commemorated with a Proclamation from Mayor Clark.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Eckhart Library Foundation update: Angie Turner reported Vicki and Rick James hosted board members of ELF at Auburn City Steakhouse to commemorate the cornerstone. ELF is receiving many first time donors for "Worthy of Thirty". Anyone who includes ELF in their will or estate will be a part of the Cornerstone Community.

Friends of the Eckhart Public Library update: Steve Graber reported that the Strawberries Around the Fountain program will be June 19 from 4:00 - 7pm. We have permission to have a booth offering shortcakes downtown at the Cruise-In.

Wednesday, May 21 is a Dine-to-Donate at Culvers restaurant. Steve Graber and Director Simmons will be bussing tables.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on June 11, 2025 at 6:00pm at the Willennar Genealogy Center, 700 S. Jackson Street, Auburn, IN.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board of Trustees, **Treasurer Schaab moved to adjourn the meeting.** Board Member Kempf provided the second.

The motion to adjourn carried 6 to 0 by roll call vote of the Board: Brown-aye; Fullerton-aye; Kempf-aye; Norton-aye; Schaab-aye; Schwartz-aye.

Approved by the EPL Board of Trustees



David Brown, Vice President

ATTEST: 

Connie Fullerton, Secretary