



BOARD MEETING MINUTES: August 28, 2025

CALL TO ORDER FOR BOARD MEETING - Board of Trustees

A Board of Trustees meeting of the Peru Public Library was held on Thursday, August 28, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM and was presided over by President Alison Paul.

ATTENDEES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Regine Brindle, Regina McDowell, Bryan Maggart, Stacy Mize, Alison Paul, and Gennell Taylor

MEMBER APOLOGIES: Leslie Murphy

STAFF PRESENT: Director- Maryann Farnham and Assistant Director- Michelle Spangler

OTHER ATTENDEES: Library's Attorney- Elizabeth Price

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Review of the July 2025 Minutes and the 2026 Budget Committee Minutes.

Motion to accept both sets of minutes was made by Brindle.

Motion seconded by McDowell.

The motion passed with four affirmatives, with Maggart and Mize abstaining.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Review of the financial statements, claims, and bank statements (June and July 2025).

Motion to accept the claims was made by Taylor.

Motion seconded by McDowell.

The motion passed with five affirmatives, with Maggart abstaining.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Paul praised the appearance of the landscaping and the exterior of the library.

LAVENGOOD ESTATE UPDATE

The library's lawyer, Elizabeth Price, attended the meeting to update the board on the circumstances surrounding the Lavengood Estate.

- Paul Lavengood's niece is claiming that the deceased promised her the whole estate. She has filed a claim in Grant County.
- Price recommends that we fight for the share that the deceased left for the library upon his death.

- Price additionally recommends that we hire attorney William Ramsey from Barrett McNagny, located in Fort Wayne. Ramsey specializes in estates and has experience with non-for-profits. Honeywell has already voted to hire him and the YMCA will be voting on it soon.
- If we hire Ramsey, Phase 1 is estimated to cost about \$15,000. Phase 2 will cost approximately \$20,000. Phase 3 is estimated at \$40,000. We are unsure at this moment if that will be split three ways between the Honeywell, the YMCA, and the library. It is also a possibility that the lawyer fees can be paid out of the earnings after the judgement.
- Price also recommends that the Library Board takes a vote to authorize someone to sign the contracts involved with this case.
- The motion to hire William Ramsey from Barrett McNagny to defend the library's interest in the Lavengood Estate was made by Maggart and seconded by Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.
- The motion to authorize Paul to sign documents for any legal documentation from Elizabeth Price or William Ramsey to represent the interest of the library regarding the Lavengood Estate was made by Maggart. The motion was seconded by Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 2026 Budget Important Dates
 - 2026 Budget Hearing: Thursday, September 25 at 6:30
 - 2026 Budget Adoption: Thursday, October 23 at 6:30
- We received the grant reimbursement for the windows from ReDiscover Downtown Peru.
- Library Policy Committee Meeting will be scheduled later this fall. The committee consists of Paul, Murphy, and Brindle.
- Summer Reading Statistics were discussed. Participation in the program was up this year. A copy of the statistics can be found in the board pack.
- Peru Community Schools paid the bill for the 3 month Non-Resident cards that they purchased for students over the summer, totaling \$475 (19 cards).
- Northern Indiana Community Foundation's report can be found in the Board Pack.
- The carpets are scheduled to be cleaned on September 4, 2025. The library will be closing at noon and the staff will be having a meeting and work day.
- Renovation
 - The carpet is scheduled for cleaning.
 - Farnham is still working with vendors for new shelving for the Children's Room.
 - We are getting an estimate for new windows for the Program Room.
 - The parking lot project is complete.
 - We are still working on the outdoor lighting project.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mize and McDowell signed the Code of Ethics as they were absent from the July meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- The board decided to table the resignation of the Vice President of the Board for next month.
- Review of the invoice from Price Law for the additional work done on the Lavengood Estate Case. The motion to pay the outstanding bill to the attorney was made by Taylor. It was seconded by Brindle. The motion passed with five affirmatives, with Maggart abstaining.

There being no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned by President Paul at 8:30 PM.

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Michelle Spangler, Assistant Director

MINUTES REVIEWED BY: Gennell Taylor, Secretary

SECRETARY APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(Signature and Date)

Gennell Taylor - Peru Public Library Board of Trustees Secretary