

Board of Trustees of the Upper Sandusky Community Library
Minutes
July 10, 2025

The Upper Sandusky Community Library Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, July 10, at 12:00 p.m. in the Library Board Room with the following members present: Ms. Jenny Romich, Mr. Todd Leightey, Mr. Brian Kimmel, and Ms. Ann Kemerley. Ms. Amy Aldridge-Ritchey, Ms. Dianne Grafmiller, and Mr. Ben Buckland were absent. Director Kathleen Whitt and Mr. Brian Hemminger of the *Daily Chief-Union* were also present.

President Jenny Romich asked for public comments. Hearing none, Ms. Romich asked if there were corrections or additions to the distributed minutes of the June meeting. Hearing none, Ms. Romich declared that the minutes stand as distributed.

Next on the agenda was a motion to ratify the payment of the bills. Ms. Romich asked if there were any questions about the bills. There was a question about two payments of over \$1,000 to Buckeye IT. Ms. Whitt said that this was for scheduled replacement of staff computers. Hearing no further questions, the motion was made and seconded to ratify the payment of bills; in a roll call vote, all present approved the bills.

Under old business, Ms. Whitt said she had checked with Smith-Boughan whether the problem with dehumidification in the basement would be corrected when the new conditioning system is installed later this year. She was told that the dehumidifier is an independent system, and will not be included in the upcoming work. Meanwhile, humidity in the basement remains high compared to the rest of the building. It was moved and seconded to accept the quote from Smith-Boughan to replace the dehumidifier located in the basement storage room. In a roll call vote, all present approved the motion.

The next item on the agenda was discussion of the quote received from CSI to remodel the kitchenette adjacent to the meeting rooms. Due to the recent cuts in state funding to the Public Library Fund, it was decided to defer this work until a later date.

Ms. Whitt then reported on what she had learned in looking into the issue of allowing a patron to bring a puppy to story times in anticipation of having the dog trained to be read to by children. The patron hoped to bring it to story times that typically have fewer children and keep it at a distance from the children. Other library directors with experience with this type of issue had said that it is not a good idea to allow an untrained animal to participate in this type of programming for the safety and well-being of all concerned, including the puppy itself. The issue may be revisited in the future when the dog has been trained and certified.

Under new business, Ms. Whitt submitted a draft revision of the library Code of Conduct (Policy on Visitor Behavior) and a draft of a new Petitions and Solicitation Policy. The Petitions and Solicitation Policy is in response to some concerns that were raised when a group recently asked permission to seek signatures on a petition at the library. The Code of Conduct has been revised since it is referenced in the Petitions and Solicitation Policy. Ms. Whitt has had Wyandot County Prosecuting Attorney Eric Figlewicz review both documents and then revised them according to his recommendations. Mr. Figlewicz then recommended that an appeals process be added to both documents. The board discussed how this process might work. Ms. Whitt will draft this additional material and bring it to the board at the next meeting, for approval of the revised Code of Conduct (Policy on Visitor Behavior) and the Petitions and Solicitation Policy.

The last item on the agenda was discussion of replacing the library's digital microfilm scanner. It was purchased in 2013 and has been having issues for several months. It can no longer be upgraded. Ms. Whitt submitted quotes from World Micrographics to replace the microfilm scanner. She said she is considering asking for a grant from the Wyandot County Community Foundation to help pay for this, as well as asking for funding from the Friends of the Library and the Wyandot County Tracers. It was asked whether it might be possible to lease a

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microfilm scanner, as the library leases the multifunctional copier/scanner at the circulation desk. Ms. Whitt will look into this possibility.

In the Director's Report, Ms. Whitt reported that:

1. Our summer reading program continues through July, with participants submitting the books they have read and community involvement activities for the prize drawings. 111 adults, 216 teens/tweens, 667 elementary school-aged children, and 24 "Wee Readers" have signed up for the program.
2. As folks are busy with summer vacations and other activities, we have a reduced program schedule in July and August. Storytimes for little ones will continue through July and then take a break in August. Our adult book clubs do not meet in July, but will resume in August.
3. On July 2, we were joined by Father Savio from St. Peter's Church for a Culture and Community Potluck. Fr. Savio talked about the culture and flavors of India. Craft Party this month features a smorgasbord of crafts to choose from, and Lunch Bunch's theme is Red, White and Blue foods. Taste of the Decades will offer 1950's favorites chicken pot pie and JELLO dessert. And on July 17, we will celebrate those who completed the 100 Book Club challenge with an invitation-only reception.
4. On July 14, we will begin accepting donations for the Friends of the Library's annual book sale. The sale will be held from August 7 to 9, with a Friends Only presale the evening of August 6.
5. Last week, Governor DeWine signed House Bill (HB) 96 into law, officially finalizing Ohio's Fiscal Year (FY) 2026–2027 state budget. Notably, he issued 67 line-item vetoes, including several provisions that would have negatively impacted public libraries. Among the vetoed items was the requirement that libraries place material related to sexual orientation or gender identity or expression in a portion of the library that is not primarily open to the view of those under the age of 18. The Ohio General Assembly does retain the power to override the governor's veto with a three-fifths majority vote in both the House and Senate. Any override attempt would begin in the Ohio House of Representatives, where HB 96 originated. There is no set timeline for this process. A vote could occur at any point before the 136th General Assembly adjourns in December 2026.
6. There were no Memorial/Honor/Donations in June.

There were no Items Not on the Agenda.

Ms. Romich asked whether there were any additional items for discussion. Hearing none, the motion was made and seconded to adjourn; the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

President

Secretary