

ALBERT WISNER PUBLIC LIBRARY
Board of Trustees Annual Re-Organization Meeting
July 22, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Minutes

PRESENT: Board Members: Regina Wittosch, Nora Aman-Gurvich, Colleen Larsen, Barbara Johansen, Michael McCann and Mary Berrigan

Director: Lisa Laico

Rec. Secretary: Siobhan O’Riordan

Absent: Mark Damia

I. Meeting called to order by Nora Aman-Gurvich at 6:00 pm

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comment: None

IV. Election of Officers for FY 2025/2026:

- A) President (also ex-officio on AWPL Foundation Board) – Mark Damia
- B) Vice President – Nora Aman-Gurvich
- C) Financial Officer – Regina Wittosch (Nora Aman-Gurvich will work with Regina Wittosch to gain familiarity with operations and procedures during FY 25-26.)
- D) Secretary – Barbara Johansen

Motion to accept Board positions for FY 2025/2026:

Michael McCann made a motion to accept the Board positions. Mary Berrigan seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows: Nora Aman-Gurvich – Yes; Regina Wittosch – Yes; Colleen Larsen – Yes; Mary Berrigan – Yes; Barbara Johansen – Yes; Michael McCann – Yes. The motion was approved.

V. Committee Assignments

Mark Damia is an ex-officio member of all committees. Lisa Laico sits on all Board committees as Library Director.

- A) **Buildings and Grounds:** Chair-Regina Wittosch, Barbara Johansen and Mary Berrigan
- B) **Financial:** Chair-Regina Wittosch, Nora Aman-Gurvich
- C) **Personnel:** Chair-Colleen Larsen, Mary Berrigan
- D) **Community Relations:** Chair-Nora Aman-Gurvich, Michael McCann

Motion to accept Committee positions for FY 22/26:

Colleen Larsen made a motion to accept the above Committee positions; Regina Wittosch seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows: Nora Aman-Gurvich – Yes; Regina Wittosch – Yes; Colleen Larsen – Yes; Mary Berrigan – Yes; Barbara Johansen – Yes; Michael McCann – Yes. The motion was approved.

VI. Motion to approve the following appointments:

Colleen Larsen made a motion to approve the following appointments; Barbara Johansen seconded the motion:

- A) To appoint Ben Gailey, J&G Law, LLP, as Attorney of Record**
- B) To appoint Nugent and Haeussler as Independent Auditor**
- C) To appoint Joy Palazzola as Treasurer and Bookkeeper**
- D) To appoint BPS Financial Services as Employee Benefits Firm**
- E) To appoint Siobhan O’Riordan as Recording Secretary**

The Board voted as follows: Nora Aman-Gurvich – Yes; Regina Wittosch – Yes; Colleen Larsen – Yes; Mary Berrigan – Yes; Barbara Johansen – Yes; Michael McCann – Yes. Motion was approved.

VII. Establish Monthly Meeting Dates and Times:

Motion to establish the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm as date/time of the regularly-scheduled monthly Board meeting:

Regina Wittosch made a motion to approve the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm as the regularly-scheduled monthly Board meeting; Mary Berrigan seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows: Nora Aman-Gurvich – Yes; Regina Wittosch – Yes; Colleen Larsen – Yes; Mary Berrigan – Yes; Barbara Johansen – Yes; Michael McCann – Yes. Motion was approved.

VIII. Library Board By-Laws: reviewed.

Motion to accept the Library Board By-Laws:

Colleen Larsen made a motion to accept the Library Board By-Laws; Mary Berrigan seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows: Nora Aman-Gurvich – Yes; Regina Wittosch – Yes; Colleen Larsen – Yes; Mary Berrigan – Yes; Barbara Johansen – Yes; Michael McCann – Yes. Motion was approved.

IX. Library Board Annual Conflict of Interest Affirmation and Disclosure Statement:

Board members were given Affirmation and Disclosure Statements which they have completed and signed. The Statements will be kept on file in the Library’s Administrative Office.

Motion to accept Annual Conflict of Interest Affirmation and Disclosure Statements:

Colleen Larsen made a motion to accept the Library Board's Annual Conflict of Interest Affirmation and Disclosure Statements; Mary Berrigan seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows: Nora Aman-Gurvich – Yes; Regina Wittosch – Yes; Colleen Larsen – Yes; Mary Berrigan – Yes; Barbara Johansen – Yes; Michael McCann – Yes. Motion was approved.

X. New Business:

A. Motion to reapprove Investment Policy:

Colleen Larsen made a motion to reapprove the Investment Policy; Regina Wittosch seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows: Nora Aman-Gurvich – Yes; Regina Wittosch – Yes; Colleen Larsen – Yes; Mary Berrigan – Yes; Barbara Johansen – Yes; Michael McCann – Yes. Motion was approved.

B. Motion to approve Resolution to override 2% tax cap for FY 2026/2027 Budget:

***Whereas**, the adoption of the FY 2026/2027 budget for Albert Wisner Public Library may require a tax levy increase that exceeds the tax cap imposed by state law as outlined in General Municipal Law Section 3-c adopted in 2011; and*

***Whereas**, General Municipal Law Section 3-c expressly permits the Library Board to override the tax levy limit by a resolution approved by a vote of sixty percent of qualified board members; now therefore be it*

***Resolved**, that on July 22, 2025, the Board of Trustees of Albert Wisner Public Library voted and approved to exceed the tax levy limit for FY 2026/2027 by at least the sixty percent of the Board of Trustees required by state law.*

Michael McCann made a motion to approve a Resolution to override the 2% tax cap; Barbara Johansen seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows: Nora Aman-Gurvich – Yes; Regina Wittosch – Yes; Colleen Larsen – Yes; Mary Berrigan – Yes; Barbara Johansen – Yes; Michael McCann – Yes. Motion was approved.

XI. Dates & Times for next meeting:

- A. Regular Meeting of the Board – Tuesday, July 22, 2026 at the Library immediately following annual Reorganization Meeting.
- B. Regular Meeting of the Board - Tuesday, August 27, 2025 at 7pm at the Library.

XII. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the Annual Reorganization Board Meeting at 6:34pm was made by Regina Wittosch; the motion was seconded by Michael McCann. The Board voted as follows: Nora Aman-Gurvich – Yes; Regina

Wittosch – Yes; Colleen Larsen – Yes; Mary Berrigan – Yes; Barbara Johansen – Yes; Michael McCann. Motion was approved.

Motions:

1. To accept FY 25/26 Board positions.
2. To accept FY 25/26 Committee positions.
3. To appoint the following:
 - Ben Gailey of J&G Law, LLP as Attorney of Record
 - Nugent and Haeussler as Independent Auditor
 - Joy Palazzola as Treasurer and Bookkeeper
 - BPS Financial Services as Employee Benefits Firm
 - Siobhan O’Riordan as Recording Secretary
4. The establish the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7pm as date/time of regular Board meetings.
5. To accept Library Board By-Laws.
6. To accept Annual Conflict of Interest Affirmation and Disclosure Statement.
7. To reapprove the Library’s Investment Policy.
4. To approve a Resolution to override the 2% tax cap for FY 2025/2026.
5. To adjourn the Annual Reorganization Meeting at 6:34pm.

Recorded by Siobhan O’Riordan on July 22, 2025 and submitted on July 24, 2025.