

Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library

Board Minutes November 20, 2025

Present: Elyse Bertucci, Darren Boldt and Brooke Routhier. Jesse Shirtz, Library Director was present. Absent, Paul Olson, Kaylee Reno; Public: none.

Meeting called to order at 7:08 PM.

Motion by Brooke Routhier supported by Elyse Bertucci to approve the October 16, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed.

Public Participation: none.

Librarian's Report:

Jesse Shirtz, Library Director, presented information, monthly progress report, statistical report and library report for October. October participation was over September and the past three Octobers continuing the year over year increase trend. The draft calendar of events for December was presented. Unique Management continues to provide significant value and returns many items to the library. Youth and adult outreach programs and other efforts continued and are increasing library resource access. Staff attended the Community Open House at the Senior Center. The Silent Book Club continues to meet monthly at Velodrome. The library is receiving a \$10,000 gift from the Carnegie Corporation.

- Circulation: Attendance in October was just over 3,100 and exceeded the previous October. Roughly 10% of the total library material was in circulation. 47 new cards were issued in October.
- Calendar of events: draft Calendar of events for December was provided.
- Budget report: The budget report was not available from the City this month. The City approved the budget at their October meeting. The City requested the Library to issue a Request for Proposal for a complete replacement of the library heating system. The cost of the replacement is currently not in the 2026 budget.
- Book bills: Book invoices were reviewed and signed by the library board.
- Friends of the Library: Association of Friends of the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library (FOL) met in November with their next meeting in March 2026. The FOL will be holding a book sale on December 5 and 6 and books are being accepted for the sale.
- Sustainable Shelves: This service is no longer available. Options are being evaluated to replace the services provided.
- Beanstack: Information on accounts and activities was provided by age group.

Presentations: None.

Committee Reports:

- The Sustainability Committee met once since the October meeting and provided an update on several items that will be brought to the fully board in 2026.

Communications:

- None

Unfinished Business:

- Policy manual review, revision and updating is ongoing. No update this month.

- Tousignant donation: The library director met with the Community Foundation of Marquette County regarding the Tousignant donation. A presentation or attendance from the Community Foundation can be arranged. Building upkeep is viewed as a City responsibility and is not part of the endowment intent. A list of potential projects (enhance and enrich: table lights, e readers, more computers for patrons, picture rail, chairs with chargers, reading pod) is still being developed and should be prioritized in 2026. Annual distributions no later than 2028.
- The Children's room redesign (FOL will cover up to \$15,000 for the renovation plan). No update this month.
- Capital Improvement items submitted for consideration to the City: No update this month
  1. Heating system replacement – full replacement bid to allow Children's room renovations to proceed. (One bid with two options received: Keep as steam heat but replace pipes and radiators for approximately \$200,000 or switch to a hot water heat radiator system for \$500,000.)
  2. Front steps/pillar deterioration repair
  3. Children's room redesign and renovation.
  4. Computer replacement – budget annual capital replacement at 3 per year.
  5. Glass floor repairs.
  6. Tile floor repairs and carpeting replacement.
  7. Roof replacement fund allocation in preparation for full replacement in 2034 to 2039. The repairs completed in 2024 should provide 10-15 more years of service.

New Business:

- Motion was made by Brooke Routhier and seconded by Darren Boldt to approve the 2026 meeting dates (1/15, 2/19, 3/19, 4/9, 5/21, 6/18, 8/20, 9/17, 10/15 and 11/19). Motion passed.
- Carnegie Corporation \$10,000 gift options that are under discussion include front entrance steps and pillar repair or heating system replacement. The current scanner is not very functional and a new one would be helpful to the public and staff. A 3D printer could be an option also.
- A motion was made by Elyse Bertucci and seconded by Brooke Routhier to draft a letter of support from the Library board for the Pizza Hut Foundation Slice of Literacy Grant application. Motion passed.

Public Participation: none.

Next meeting is January 15, 2026 7:00 PM in person at the Library.

A motion was made by Darren Boldt and seconded by Brooke Routhier at 8:01 PM to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brooke Routhier