

CARLINVILLE LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES

July 7, 2026

The Carlinville Library Board met in regular session Monday, June 1, 2026. President Diane Aikin called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM. Members physically present were Tom Emery, Liz Burdell, Don Martin, Dawn Peterson, Beth O'Brien, Jessica Yeager, Jenna Rosentreter and Dana Yowell, along with Library Director Hannah Miller. A quorum was present.

Public Comments and Correspondence: None

The regular minutes of the June 1 meeting were distributed to board members prior to the meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

A copy of the financial report was distributed to members prior to the meeting. Rosentreter indicated that all authorized signers for accounts at United Community Bank and Bank and Trust have been updated with newly elected officers. Carlinville-Accounting Group has begun the library's portion of the City audit. A motion was made by Burdell and seconded that the treasurer's report and paying of bills be accepted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATE ON ETCG GRANT PROGRESS FOR 2025: Director Miller reported that the grant manager says it's safe to go ahead with any work. Five bids were received for remodeling three bathrooms and the quiet room.

READ THROUGH AND DISCUSS BIDS FOR REMODEL: Copies of all bids were given to board members to read before the August meeting. Further discussion will be held then.

ONGOING DISCUSSION ABOUT UPCOMING ETCG GRANT APPLICATION FOR 2026-INCLUDING ELECTRICAL ESTIMATE-NEXT STEPS: Director Miller indicated this grant maybe changing. Miller is trying to obtain more information. This will be the last year that we're eligible to receive money. This grant is given to communities affected by mine or power plant closures. At the May meeting board members discussed some options for the grant money: installing new carpeting, replacing the library's electric system and replacing stained ceiling tiles. Installing solar was also discussed. Morgan Electric inspected the library electric system on June 18th and recorded his findings and recommendations. He is suggesting we have an electrical engineer evaluate the system and develop a plan for improvements. Board members suggested Director Miller to reach out to the city and Ameren for any recommendations they may have.

NEW BUSINESS:

KANOPY E-RESOURCE: Director Miller said patrons have asked her about adding more e-resources including Kanopy, which is a streaming app for library patrons. They offer 32,000 films for all ages, free with a library card. After some discussion a motion was made by Burdell and seconded that the library take a 6 month trial for the Kanopy app and then revisit the issue in 6 months. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

PAINTING CITY/LIBRARY BUILDING FACADE: Mayor Downey approached Director Miller about the possibility of repainting the brown metal facade that wraps around the shared City Hall and Library building. After much discussion the issue was tabled for the time being.

FORMING A CHRISTMAS PARTY, AND 100th ANNIVERSARY OF CARLINVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN 2027 COMMITTEE: President Aikin asked for volunteers to form a committee to undertake the Christmas party planning as well as the 100th anniversary of the library. Burdell, O'Brien and Yeager volunteered.

LIBRARIAN REPORT:

29 new library cards were issued in June. 37 resident card renewals were recorded in June and 8 non-resident cards were renewed. 2965 total physical items were checked out in June. 747 additional e-resources were checked out on Libby this month by 365 unique users.

EVENTS: Pre-K Summer Storytime had 138 kids and 76 adults for 9 sessions in June. School-Aged Summer Storytime had 58 Kinder-1st graders attending the 4 Tuesday sessions with volunteer teachers, and 38 2nd-5th graders at the other 4 Tuesday sessions for a total of 97 kids.

Jennifer Buchhelt was back on June 4th, and 35 kids, and guardians were able to make some very special and magical gnome crafts.

Art Education major, Joanna Roemer, volunteered to teach a Crafternoon on June 11. She had a crowd of 23 and did very well to manage the chaos while making paper parachutes.

The Kick-Off Party for the Summer Reading Program with the foam cannon from Foam and Flight had roughly 150 attendees.

Mad Science came on June 5th and gave a very wet and soapy presentation to a crowd of 45. Friday, June 12th the crowd multiplied and filled the library (possibly 200) for a chance to pet the fennec fox or the albino boa from Wild Times Exotics.

June 15th we hosted two adorable equine therapy-trained mini-horses; Oliver and Jasper. The library was filled to bursting yet again and everyone got pictures and got to pet the horses.

June 26th had a crowd of 40 when Isabel Srour of the Center for American Archaeology visited with artifacts to show.

Chess Club had 10 participants on June 22nd. We may be able to have a master class and/or lecture from a chess Grand Master visiting St Louis on a Monday evening in September.

Universal Yums had 8 participants on June 1st to try snacks from Thailand.

“Cooking the Books” club had 5 attendees on June 18th. They decided to take the rest of the summer off and regroup in September.

Bingo, in collaboration with Carlinville Area Hospital, had 10 attendees on June 3rd.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

The scheduled Lunch Bunch Storytime on June 29th ended up at Loveless Park. 10 kids and 2 adults were present. Tom Thumb Storytime on June 18th had 3 kids and 2 adults for some good stories, some giant bubble-blowing, some free book-schoosing and some fun.

The Carlinville Library was honored as “Community Partner of the Year” for Macoupin County by Illinois Extension and 4-H. We partner with them each year on a few 4-H STEM nights for kids and we also host quite a few Illinois Extension lectures.

ADJOURNMENT: 5:26 PM

Submitted by Secretary Dana Yowell