WARREN PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

WARREN CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY – MARK TWAIN ROOM

1 CITY SQUARE SUITE 100

WARREN, MI 48093

MARCH 23, 2026

6:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order**: Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Natalie Piernak.
2. **Roll Call:**
   **Commissioners Present**: Lorie Barnwell, Emma Howard, Natalie Piernak, and William Rudd.
   **Also Attending**: M. McCarville, Director of Warren Public Libraries, C. Murphy, City of Warren Attorney.
3. **Approval of Agenda**:
   a. Howard motioned to approve the agenda, supported by Barnwell. The motion carried.
4. **Approval of Minutes**:
   a. **Regular Meeting February 19, 2026**
      i. Howard motioned to approve the amended February 19, 2026 minutes, supported by Barnwell. The motion carried.
5. **Financial Reports**: M. McCarville reported on the financial state of the Warren Public Library Branches. The FY27 Budget Request has been submitted.
6. **Director's Report**:
   a. Unique Management: Continuing to collect money for lost and missing items for the library system.
   b. Branch Updates: Busch additional shelving in adult room has been ordered. The Library of Things collection is available at Miller. Burnette will be adding a Library of Things collection. The Sunday hours at Civic Center are well received by patrons.
   c. Current Projects: The request for bid placed on BidNet for magazines. The construction of the new unnamed library is progressing and the furniture has been selected. The new Library website went live on March 17, 2026.
   d. Services: Received a check from SLC for ProPay credit transactions totaling $713.46

e. Staffing: A Library page at the Miller Branch resigned and A. Givens was hired to fill that opening. A. Libby returned to work after a short-term leave on February 27, 2026.
f. Marketing/Outreach: Spring quarterly printing of Warren Today, Activity Guide was mailed out to Warren residents. Two staff members are attending MLA Spring Institute in Grand Rapids. Two other staff members will be attending the Public Library Association annual conference in Minneapolis, MN.
g. Discussion items:
    i. The fiscal year 2026-2027 library budget was presented. There was discussion about the requested personnel positions. Discussed the progress of naming of the new library branch. Increasing the award amount of Spartan 6 Security's contract award to $60,000 to cover year-round service at the Burnette Branch. Going Fine Free for Adult Print materials (books, magazines and pamphlets). Two staff members to attend MLA Advocacy Day on April 28, 2026. All Library Commission Members are encouraged to attend. There will be ongoing training and evaluation of Commission and Director.

7. **Audience Participation**: An audience member raised concern about library funding being used for security guards and having the Director involved the evaluation process.
8. **Action Items:**
    **a.** Barnwell motioned to increase Spartan 6 Security current contract from $40,000 to $60,000. Howard supported. The motion carried.
    **b.** Rudd motioned to approve the fiscal year 2026-2027 library budget. Piernak supported. The motion failed with a vote of 2-2. In favor: Piernak, Rudd. Opposed: Barnwell, Howard.
    **c.** Barnwell motioned to postpone the approval of the fiscal year 2026-2027 library budget. Howard supported. The motion carried.
    **d.** Howard motioned to go Fine Free for adult print materials (books, magazines and pamphlets) Barnwell supported. The motion carried.
9. **Friends of the Warren Public Library**: McCarville met with Friends Member Marge to discuss the Children's Garden at Civic Center. The Friends Board met on March 16, 2026.
10. **S**. **L**. **C**. **Report**: McCarville attended the SLC Advisory Council meeting.
11. **Commissioner's Comments**: A special meeting was proposed for April 8th at 6:00 p.m. at the Civic Center Library Mark Twain room pending commissioners schedules.
12. **Next Meeting Date**: April 16, 2026
13. **Adjournment**: Barnwell motioned to adjourn the meeting, supported by Rudd . The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.