

8-20-26 Calumet City Library Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 2026-08-25 16:44:06

Location: Calumet City Library

Overview

This document summarizes a multi-speaker board meeting on August 20, 2026, covering administration approvals, a safety hazard from missing patio bricks, an urgent custodial staffing shortage, and updates on backflow checks, cheer pods, a proposed service day, and the city's Halloween event. It merges related sections, maintains hierarchy for bullets, and concludes with consolidated action items for follow-up.

Meeting Administration

- The meeting was called to order at 6:14 PM with a quorum present.
- Minutes from the June 29, 2026, and July 23, 2026, meetings were approved.
- The financial reports for July 10, July 24, and August 7, 2026, were also approved.
- Camilla Johnson joined the meeting at 6:16 PM.

Patio Brick Hazard

- A new business item was added to discuss the open spaces in the patio area where bricks are missing. These empty spots are considered a significant tripping hazard.
- It was noted that this issue has existed since the cafe opened, and a solution is needed urgently.
- Initial plans to use the spaces for engraved dedication bricks for donors and board members have not moved forward.
- Proposed Solutions:
 - o A temporary fix suggested was to fill the holes with aggregate or pebbles from the shop. A board member will measure the spaces to determine the required volume.
 - o A longer-term, more affordable solution could be to fill the spaces with plain bricks, which could potentially be painted by children as a project, instead of paying for engraving.

Custodial Staffing Shortage

- The library is struggling to hire a qualified person for the custodial maintenance position. The role's primary focus is custodial duties, with minor maintenance tasks.
- The pay is \$27.40 an hour, which is approximately \$55,600 per year. The budget is tight, with no levy increase in 50 years, making it impossible to hire a cleaning service (quoted at \$100,000) or offer higher wages.
- Hiring Challenges:
 - o Many applicants are willing to do maintenance but not the custodial work, especially cleaning bathrooms.
 - o Several candidates were unqualified, with one asking for \$50 an hour.
 - o Two new interviews with candidates who have strong custodial backgrounds are scheduled for next week.
- The need is urgent, as evidenced by overflowing garbage cans and unclean restrooms. The bathrooms are supposed to be checked hourly, but staff is stretched too thin.

Library Beautification and Updates

- Backflow Check:
 - o Calumet City Plumbing reported that the yearly backflow check is due.
- Cheer Pods:
 - o An update was given on pods, which cost \$7,000 each. One was tested and well-received. A search for a less expensive quote is underway, but if unsuccessful, the current option will be paid for out of a grant.
- Service Day Proposal:
 - o A board member proposed a "service day" for trustees to handle beautification of the patio and library front, as public works is stretched thin. Board members are asked to suggest three potential dates for this event.
- Halloween Event:
 - o The city usually holds a large Halloween event at the library, possibly a trick-or-treat. The mayor will provide confirmation on this year's plans.

Action Items

- ☐ Scan and email the backflow check notice from Calumet City Plumbing.

- ☐ Measure the depth and number of the empty brick spaces on the patio.
- ☐ Attempt to fill the patio spaces with aggregate as a temporary fix.
- ☐ Board members to propose three potential dates for a beautification service day.
- ☐ Check with the mayor to confirm plans for the annual Halloween event.