

Ypsilanti District Library
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes, September 10, 2025
(Approved September 24, 2025)

CALL TO ORDER

President Bethany Kennedy called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Trustees Present: Kristy Cooper, Bethany Kennedy, Teresa M. Maddix, Brian Steimel, Chris Tebbens and Jean Winborn formed a quorum. Trustees Patricia Horne McGee was absent.

Also present: Assistant Director Julianne Smith, Business Office Manager Andrew Hamilton, as well as Community Relations Coordinator Sam Killian.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Trustee Tebbens moved to approve the agenda and Trustee Winborn supported this motion.

Vote: Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Motion: Passed
Absent: 1

PUBLIC COMMENT

KJ Pedri – advised she is with the Homelessness Solidarity Network and she spoke to the Board endorsing the proposal supporting the homeless shelter in Ypsilanti as well as highlighting the Ypsilanti District Library's efforts and actions in working on this issue within the community.

CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Winborn moved to approve consent agenda (August 27, 2025 Regular meeting minutes). Trustee Steimel supported this motion.

Vote: Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Motion: Passed
Absent: 1

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Consideration of a resolution in support of an emergency shelter in Ypsilanti

YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-23

September 10, 2025

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A Resolution Reinforcing the City of Ypsilanti's Resolution Requesting Washtenaw County Allocate Funds Toward the Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Shelter in Ypsilanti for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness; and

Whereas, the Ypsilanti District Library staff has seen a significant uptick in patrons experiencing homelessness, and although the library can provide support resources for these patrons through our social worker on staff, they still have nowhere to go after the library closes; and

Whereas, homelessness is a growing and urgent issue in Washtenaw County: in 2020, an estimated 2,800 people experienced literal homelessness and sought emergency shelter, with 38% of them being families with young children, underscoring the critical need for expanded shelter and services; and

Whereas, the 2024 Point-in-Time Count conducted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reported over 770,000 people experiencing homelessness nationwide, an 18% increase from 2023, which reflects a troubling trend of rising homelessness in Washtenaw County and across the nation; and

Whereas the Area Median Income (AMI) for Ypsilanti for a single adult is \$44,141 while the AMI for a single adult in Washtenaw County is \$87,156, nearly double that of the city proper; and

Whereas Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township have a BIPOC population of over 40%, with the highest percentage of Black residents in Washtenaw County; per the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services black Michiganders experience homelessness at a rate three times higher than white Michiganders; and

Whereas Ypsilanti has 25% of people living in poverty and Ypsilanti Township has 15% of people living in poverty compared to 14.6% of Washtenaw County residents living in poverty; and Whereas 52% of the clients that Community Mental Health serves through their CARES program, providing mental health support to people regardless of insurance, are based in Ypsilanti; and

Whereas, Washtenaw County's Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage is a recently renewed, voter-approved homeowner tax that generates vital funding for mental health and substance use treatment programs, resources that could be leveraged to help individuals experiencing homelessness, many of whom face significant mental health and substance use challenges; and

Whereas, local hospitality houses, churches, and service organizations are vital in addressing immediate shelter needs, but a permanent shelter is necessary to provide long-term solutions for individuals experiencing homelessness, focusing on both emergency housing and pathways to permanent housing; and

Whereas, the Ypsilanti District Library Board of Trustees recognizes the importance of a permanent shelter in supporting patrons who are homeless, providing not only a safe place to stay but also essential services to support their transition to stable, permanent housing; and

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Whereas, there is still time to get a homeless shelter in place before the colder weather of Winter 2025-2026 makes outdoor conditions increasingly dangerous for Ypsilanti District Library patrons experiencing homelessness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Ypsilanti District Library Board of Trustees, as follows:

The Ypsilanti District Library Board of Trustees supports and further endorses the City of Ypsilanti's Resolution No. 2025 - 007, A Resolution Requesting Washtenaw County Allocate Funds Toward the Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Shelter in Ypsilanti for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness, which requests that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners allocate funding for the establishment and operation of a permanent shelter in the City of Ypsilanti for individuals experiencing homelessness in Ypsilanti and across the County, whether that is in the location listed on the City of Ypsilanti's resolution or another address, such as 211 E Michigan Ave.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is forwarded to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, City of Ypsilanti City Council, to Washtenaw County Community Mental Health's office, Ypsilanti Township Trustees and Superior Township Trustees.

OFFERED BY: Trustee Cooper

SUPPORTED BY: Trustee Tebbens

YES: 6 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1 VOTE: 6-0 Passed

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee	Comment
Trustee Cooper	None
Trustee Steimel	None
Trustee Winborn	None
Trustee Maddix	None
Trustee Tebbens	None
Trustee Kennedy	None
Trustee Horne McGee	Absent

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Maddix moved to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Trustee Winborn seconded this motion.