

Special Meeting Lanesboro Public Library Board of Trustees

February 28, 2025

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82810988155?pwd=H0UYPHKdBycl2bZ880bpzr9Q7tWEVg.1>

Meeting ID: 828 1098 8155

Passcode: 636560

Mindy Albrecht-Benson will participate remotely at Gulf Dunes #412, 376 Santa Rosa Blvd., Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

Location: Lanesboro Community Center

Time: 5:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Special Meeting to order
 - a. Agenda Approval
- II. New Business
 - a. Review Library Board applications
- III. Other Business
 - a. Comments and Questions
 - b. Next meeting, **March 12, 2025 at 5:00 pm**
- IV. Adjourn

Board/Commission Application

Name: Amanda Specht
Phone: 507-316-4928 Email: amandarspecht@gmail.com
Address: 301 Ashburn Street E - Lanesboro, MN 55949

Commission or Board (select one):

- Economic Development Authority Park Board Heritage Preservation Commission
 Public Utilities Commission Library Board Planning and Zoning Commission

1. What is your professional background, and how do you feel it will benefit the board/commission to which you are applying?

Currently a Patient Liaison w/ Mundersen Health - it is a very detailed orientated position which would be helpful serving on any board.

2. Have you served on any other boards, commissions, or committees (in this city or elsewhere)? If so, please describe your role and contribution.

The one committee I was on that would pertain to this position would be when I was on the Library Committee for the Benedictine Health System. I took minutes, assisted in book purchases, organizing the library

3. Why are you interested in serving on this particular board or commission? + amongst other tasks.
I love anything + everything to do with books, literature, reading, writing... words in general. I have my own little library + I've been an avid reader since a very young age.

4. How do you see your role in advancing the goals and mission of the board or commission?

I believe having people with different mindsets to bounce ideas off of can be such an amazing thing for growth.

5. What specific skills, talents, or perspectives would you bring to the board or commission?

Being able to see the good in all opinions.

6. Are you able to commit to the regular meeting schedule and any additional duties required by the board/commission?

Yes.

7. How do you ensure that diverse perspectives are heard and considered when making a decision?

Everyone being able to have their time to communicate + for others to be able to have an open mind + listen to everyone fairly.

8. Do you have any personal or professional relationships, business dealings, or other circumstances that could potentially create a conflict of interest if you serve on this board/commission? If so, how would you address these conflicts to ensure transparency, fairness, and the best interests of the community?

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Resumes and relevant documents may be submitted with this application.

Data Practices Advisory:

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I have read the Data Practices Advisory and agree to the collection/release of my data as described.

AS Applicant Initials

Conflict of Interest: This may arise by participation in any activity, recommended action, or decision from which you receive or could potentially receive direct or indirect personal financial gain, or other personal interest. A conflict of interest may also occur if you hold a private or other public position in addition to your city board and/or commission which may interfere with your discharge of your City responsibilities. In accordance with these definitions, do you have any legal or equitable interest in any business, however organized, which during your participation in a City Advisory Board and/or Commission, could give rise to a conflict of interest? Yes No

Applicant Signature: 

Date: 2-7-25

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Received By: 02/11/2025

Date Received: MA

Board/Commission Application

Name: Stephanie Strahl
Phone: (507) 923-3677 Email: StephanieStrahl93@gmail.com
Address: 107 Zenith St. Lanesboro MN 55949

Commission or Board (select one):

- Economic Development Authority Park Board Heritage Preservation Commission
 Public Utilities Commission Library Board Planning and Zoning Commission

1. What is your professional background, and how do you feel it will benefit the board/commission to which you are applying?

I have an Associates Degree in Applied Science and have worked as a Surgical Technologist at Mayo Clinic for over five years. My job has helped me to gain skills in communication and strategizing with colleagues from different age groups, cultures and diverse backgrounds.

2. Have you served on any other boards, commissions, or committees (in this city or elsewhere)? If so, please describe your role and contribution.

No.

3. Why are you interested in serving on this particular board or commission?

I am an avid reader and have a passion for education. The library board position presents a unique opportunity to be a part of something meaningful that brings joy and education to our community members of all ages.

4. How do you see your role in advancing the goals and mission of the board or commission?

I would work alongside the other board members and do my best to contribute creative ideas and perform necessary tasks. The library is an important asset to our community and I am excited and motivated to contribute.

5. What specific skills, talents, or perspectives would you bring to the board or commission?

I am creative, detail oriented and have a diverse taste in literature.

I am interested in volunteer opportunities, philanthropy as well as environment and animal conservation and cultural social issues.

6. Are you able to commit to the regular meeting schedule and any additional duties required by the board/commission?

Yes.

7. How do you ensure that diverse perspectives are heard and considered when making a decision?

To ensure that diverse perspectives are considered you have to have a mindset that invokes empathy and consideration for people who may have a different lifestyle or background than your own.

When making decisions they should be considerate of all cultures, age groups, ethnicities and genders.

8. Do you have any personal or professional relationships, business dealings, or other circumstances that could potentially create a conflict of interest if you serve on this board/commission? If so, how would you address these conflicts to ensure transparency, fairness, and the best interests of the community?

No.

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SS Applicant Initials

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Applicant Signature: *Stephanie Juel*

Date: 2-11-2025

For Office Use Only

Received By: *Darla Taylor*

Date Received: 2-12-25

Board/Commission Application

Name: Sandra Webb
Phone: 507-884-1113 Email: vanvelsor@gmail.com
Address: 827 Zenith St. E Lanesboro

Commission or Board (select one):

- Economic Development Authority Park Board Heritage Preservation Commission
 Public Utilities Commission Library Board Planning and Zoning Commission

1. What is your professional background, and how do you feel it will benefit the board/commission to which you are applying?

Educator: 30 years at elementary + college levels, including GED
Relevant skills = organizational skills; managing groups of people;
ability to search out underlying misunderstandings;
ability to recognize + value different perspectives; planning.

2. Have you served on any other boards, commissions, or committees (in this city or elsewhere)? If so, please describe your role and contribution.

Lanesboro Museum Director. 9 years. Led projects that involved
the museum in many local events. Wrote grants to fund database
Lanesboro Community Theater Board: 14 years. Leadership, problem solving.
Lanesboro Library Board: 6 years. Secretary. Committee work

3. Why are you interested in serving on this particular board or commission?

Libraries are one of the most important foundations
of democracy. They provide access to information
and assistance processing information to everyone.
Everyone need access to information for a democracy to flourish.

4. How do you see your role in advancing the goals and mission of the board or commission?

I am able to foster respect for interacting with and discovering
ideas, and for processing information. I read widely, I know
how to research. I realize the value of SELCO + MNLink,
indeed, the value of libraries + communities working together.

5. What specific skills, talents, or perspectives would you bring to the board or commission?

Grant-writing. Budget management. Leadership. Problem-solving.
Organizational skills. Familiarity with local history + families

6. Are you able to commit to the regular meeting schedule and any additional duties required by the board/commission?

Yes.

7. How do you ensure that diverse perspectives are heard and considered when making a decision?

I listen. I ask questions to move the conversation beyond a
surface level. I restate comments to ensure clarity. I
look for people's strengths. I ask everyone at the table
to contribute their ideas. I can summarize + clarify discussions.

8. Do you have any personal or professional relationships, business dealings, or other circumstances that could potentially create a conflict of interest if you serve on this board/commission? If so, how would you address these conflicts to ensure transparency, fairness, and the best interests of the community?

No

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SW Applicant Initials

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Applicant Signature: Dendra Webb

Date: December 12, 2024

For Office Use Only

Received By: Darla Taylor

Date Received: 12-13-24

Board/Commission Application

Name: Anna Lane
Phone: 715-222-3462 Email: annalane1714@gmail.com
Address: 313 Coffee St., Lanesboro, MN 55949

Commission or Board (select one):

- Economic Development Authority Park Board Heritage Preservation Commission
 Public Utilities Commission Library Board Planning and Zoning Commission

1. What is your professional background, and how do you feel it will benefit the board/commission to which you are applying?

After graduating from Macalester College with a B.A. in German Studies and International Studies, I completed a Fulbright Teaching English in Austria. It was during this experience that I decided to become a teacher. I received my M.A. in Teaching and have since taught high school social studies in Hawaii, multilingual students in southern Minnesota, and now middle school science and high school German at Fillmore Central. Furthermore, I am currently a graduate student at MSU-Moorhead, working towards my Education Specialist Degree in K-12 Administration with the goal of becoming a principal. Through these experiences and my current coursework, I have learned and developed skills about community relationships, personnel supervision, finance, and curriculum and instruction.

2. Have you served on any other boards, commissions, or committees (in this city or elsewhere)? If so, please describe your role and contribution.

No, I have not. This would be my first board, and I would be eager to learn from you all.

3. Why are you interested in serving on this particular board or commission?

As an educator and student, I am deeply aware of the power of libraries and the important role they play both education and community. Many school districts face budget cuts, and unfortunately, the library and media center is often the first thing to go. If chosen to be on the board, I hope to learn about and explore the role public libraries can play in supporting local schools. Additionally, libraries are such an important community resource that I want to continue to support.

4. How do you see your role in advancing the goals and mission of the board or commission?

I am both a teacher and community member, and I believe it is my duty to support community resources. Additionally, through my education specialist degree, I have learned about finance, personnel supervision, and community relationships, which would be beneficial in the governance of the library.

5. What specific skills, talents, or perspectives would you bring to the board or commission?

My experience as a K-12 teacher with diverse learners would help me guide the library through many decisions. Last year, I also completed a fellowship about rural education and the importance of schools in rural communities. This experience was inspiring, and I hope to bring this passion to the library board.

6. Are you able to commit to the regular meeting schedule and any additional duties required by the board/commission?

Yes, of course.

7. How do you ensure that diverse perspectives are heard and considered when making a decision?

Being a respectful and considerate listener is crucial in making sure diverse perspectives are heard. To do this, I actively seek input from individuals and encourage everyone to share their viewpoints.

Additionally, structured decision-making processes that follow clear procedures help to ensure all voices are considered. Finally, I reflect on potential biases and challenge assumptions by consulting diverse stakeholders.

8. Do you have any personal or professional relationships, business dealings, or other circumstances that could potentially create a conflict of interest if you serve on this board/commission? If so, how would you address these conflicts to ensure transparency, fairness, and the best interests of the community?

No, I do not.

Resumes and relevant documents may be submitted with this application.


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___APL___ Applicant Initials

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Applicant Signature:  **Date:** 2/27/25

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Received By: MW Date Received: 02/27/2025

Anna P. Lane

715-222-3462

annalane1714@gmail.com

Teaching and Leadership Positions

- Fillmore Central School District**, Harmony, MN - *Science, German and ELL Teacher/Coordinator* 8/30/24-Present
- Guide Fillmore Central in starting their first ever EL program
 - Teacher 7th and 8th grade phenomenon based science, launch German department
- Southern Minnesota Education Consortium**, Austin, MN - *ELL Teacher and Coordinator* 8/1/23-8/1/24
- Coordinate ELL services for seven different rural districts throughout Southern Minnesota
 - Design and implement Newcomers Program
 - Currently serving Lyle Public Schools, Alden-Conger Public Schools, Southland Public Schools, and Kingsland Public Schools
- Kamaile Academy PCS**, Waianae, HI - *Secondary Social Studies Teacher* 7/20-Present
- Title 1 School, Hawaiian focused public charter school
 - 100% of students receive free lunch and breakfast
 - Develop and implement curriculum in a geographically isolated area for 11/12 Advisory, Economics, Participation in Democracy, Modern History of Hawai'i, American Problems, Senior Project, Advisory, Small Group Math Intervention
 - Arts and Crafts Club Teacher, Middle School, partnered with PBS Kids to film a news video
- Kamaile Academy PCS**, Waianae, HI - *Grade Level Chair* 7/21-Present
- Supervised 6 teachers and staff members, organized prom, graduation, field trips, cultural experiences, attended a variety of leadership meetings
- Fulbright Austria**, Weiz, Austria, *Teaching Assistant* 9/19- 6/20
- Taught English in two different schools for an academic year
 - Planned 13 lessons a week for students age 10-18, totalling over 400 students

Education

- Minnesota State University Moorhead**, Moorhead, MN 8/24-Present
- Ed. Specialist Degree in School Leadership, K-12 Administration
- Rural School Leadership Academy**, Teach for America and Harvard University 6/23-Present
- Selected from a pool of competitive school leaders
 - Visit rural schools throughout the country, complete four different PD cycles
 - Complete courses through Harvard to work towards certificate in Educational Leadership
- Kansas State University**, Manhattan, KS M.A. in Teaching received May 2021
- Endorsements:** German K-12, ESL K-12, and Social Studies 6-12 GPA 4.0
- Completed Practicum and Internship with Gallatin High, Bozeman, MT
- Macalester College**, St. Paul, MN B.A. received in May 2018
- Majors:** International Studies and German Studies GPA 3.87/4.0
- Honors:** Recipient of the Dewitt Distinguished Scholarship and Tartan Scholarship for Excellence in Education, Phi Beta Kappa German Honor Society, Virginia McKnight Binger Prize for Excellence in German Language and Literature
- Study Abroad:** Goethe Institute in Berlin, Germany (C1 Certification) and University of Vienna, Austria

Additional/Relevant Experience

- Ready to Learn, BERG Group**, Oahu, Hawai'i, *Student* 10/21
- Completed course on the neuroscience of teaching
- World Language Initiative - Montana**, Bozeman, Montana, *Language Coach* 9/20-3/21

- Taught weekly small group language courses to students in grades K-5
- Twin Cities German Immersion School**, St. Paul, MN, *Educational Assistant and Sub Coordinator* 2/19-6/19
 - Work alongside teachers and assist special education students with a variety of needs, in German
 - Organize all sub needs for the school, coordinate with teachers, substitutes, and administrators
- The Ranch at Rock Creek**, Philipsburg, MT, *Wrangler* 5/18-1/19
 - Lead high end clients on horseback rides, provide arena lessons for children, teach line dancing classes
 - Assistant with the Little Grizzlies Kid Program, teaching kids about nature, leading crafts and games
- Twin Cities German Immersion School**, St. Paul, MN, *Kinderclub Activity Leader* 12/17-5/18
 - Organized after school activities for children in K-8 including field trips to the zoo, conservatory and parks
 - Planned lessons in German
- Macalester College**, St. Paul, MN, *Office Assistant* 9/14-5/18
 - Assisted professors in class preparation, research, proofreading and grading
 - Organized events for guest speakers and dinners
- Macalester College**, St. Paul, MN, *Teaching Assistant* 8/17-1/18
 - Teaching assistant for Introduction to International Studies, assisting students with writing and reading
 - Graded a variety of assignments, helped professor plan class, led study sessions
- BG 18 Kloostergasse Gymnasium**, Vienna, Austria, *English Tutor* 3/17-6/17
 - Volunteered in English classes from age 12-18
 - Prepared lesson plans once a week that highlighted different aspects of American culture
- Women's Initiative for Self-Empowerment**, St. Paul, MN, *Mentor* 9/15-5/16
 - Volunteered weekly at Leap High School
 - Worked with refugee and immigrant women and assisted them with their homework
- Council on International Educational Exchange**, *Public Relations Intern* 7/13-1/14
 - Blogged and posted pictures weekly about my high school exchange Germany
 - Reached out to potential exchange students and alumni

Conferences and Exhibitions

- Undergraduate Research Conference in German Studies**, Lafayette College, PA 4/18
 - Max Kade Prize for Best Research, Presentation and Engagement with Audience
 - Presented my senior thesis "Paper Trails: Space, Time, and Citizenship in the *Deutsche Kolonialzeitung*"
- Beyond Borders: (Trans)National Identity**, Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Romania 5/17
 - Invited to present at an international conference while studying at the University of Vienna
 - Presented a German research paper about colonial newspapers titled "Die Erweiterung eines Reiches"
- (Inter)Occupation: U.S. Military Occupation in Okinawa**, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN 4/18-5/18
 - Curated an exhibit with two other students about U.S. Military occupation in Okinawa, Japan
 - Exhibition included photos, sound installation and interactive responses

Leadership

- President, ACLU Macalester Chapter 11/14-1/17
- Founder, Co-Chair, Macalester German Conversation Group 9/15-9/16

Skills

Languages: English, Advanced German, Intermediate Spanish
Certifications: CPR/First Aid, Wilderness First Aid



Board/Commission Application

Name: Adrienne Sweeney
Phone: 507 993 0885 Email: Adrienne.Sweeney@gmail.com
Address: P.O. Box 15, 305 Elmwood St. E, Lanesboro MN 55949

Commission or Board (select one):

- Economic Development Authority Park Board Heritage Preservation Commission
 Public Utilities Commission Library Board Planning and Zoning Commission

1. What is your professional background, and how do you feel it will benefit the board/commission to which you are applying?

I have more than 20 years in Management at the Commonwealth Theatre specializing in Marketing and Patron relations as well as years teaching, directing and acting. These all demand an ability to listen with an open and curious mind to ensure the best decision making and outcomes for the organization.

2. Have you served on any other boards, commissions, or committees (in this city or elsewhere)? If so, please describe your role and contribution.

Served two terms on the Lanesboro Chamber of Commerce as well as sitting on the Marketing Committee multiple times. I serve/have served on the Board of Directors for the Des Moines Area Community College Theatre Dept. as well as the Minnesota Theatre Alliance. Additionally I have served on the grants review panel for the Minnesota State Arts Board.

3. Why are you interested in serving on this particular board or commission?

I have been an active patron of the library since moving to Lanesboro in 2001. I believe strongly in the mission of the library and know that it greatly improves the quality of life in our community.

4. How do you see your role in advancing the goals and mission of the board or commission?

My years of success as a Manager and team leader ensures that I provide a thoughtful and fact-based ~~approach~~ procedure on which to ensure the policies of the library. A strong team player - as well as leader - I bring a proven ability to listen and build consensus.

5. What specific skills, talents, or perspectives would you bring to the board or commission?

Decades of personnel management, listening skills and collaborative work practices, as well as a commitment to and love for this community

6. Are you able to commit to the regular meeting schedule and any additional duties required by the board/commission?

Yes

7. How do you ensure that diverse perspectives are heard and considered when making a decision?

As a theatre director and team manager, I deal with this daily. My approach is to solicit and consider input from a variety of constituents to help synthesize my opinions and decision making.

8. Do you have any personal or professional relationships, business dealings, or other circumstances that could potentially create a conflict of interest if you serve on this board/commission? If so, how would you address these conflicts to ensure transparency, fairness, and the best interests of the community?

No

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[Signature]
Applicant Initials

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Applicant Signature: *[Signature]*

Date: *2/26/25*

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Received By: *DT*

Date Received: *2-27-25*