



MEETING MINUTES

A public hearing on the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 was conducted from 6:30-6:35pm. The purpose of the hearing was to provide time for members of the public to comment on the ordinance prior to the WPLD Board of Trustees vote on the ordinance. Trustees Bederman, Cox, Di Lorenzo, Fishman, Pasko, and Sennett attended the hearing. Trustee Mullman was absent. There were no public comments.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call.

President Fishman called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. Secretary Di Lorenzo called roll.

PRESENT: Trustees Bederman, Cox, Di Lorenzo, Fishman, Pasko, Sennett, Director Auston

ABSENT: Trustee Mullman

VISITORS: Georgia Gebhardt – League of Women Voters, Liz Seager

STAFF: Marti Bellefontaine, Cathleen Blair, Sandra Discepolo, Christine Hightower, Matthew Hoffman, Andrea Vaughn Johnson

II. Review draft of July 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Trustee Sennett moved approval of July 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, as presented. Trustee Bederman seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Aye – Bederman, Cox, Di Lorenzo, Pasko, Sennett, Fishman

Nay – None

Absent or not voting – Mullman

MOTION CARRIED.

III. Public Comment. None.

IV. Presentations. None.

V. Treasurer's Report.

A. Financial Report for July 2025. Trustee Bederman shared the following:

- One-twelfth into the fiscal year, finances line up with the 8.4% of expense budget, although those two won't always line up.
- The library received \$12,000 revenue from Illinois Replacement Tax.
- Interest in both the general fund and special reserve fund was on track in the first month.
- Cook County is delayed in distributing and collecting property tax bills, which will delay receipt of funding.
- Trustee Bederman and Finance Manager Discepolo will attend a PMA library seminar in September on elements of the tax levy.

- Annual financial audit will be drafted in September and delivered to the board in October.
- Anticipation of fed rates going down may slow reinvestments.

- B. Bills and Salaries Check Detail for July 2025. Trustee Pasko moved approval of the July 2025 Bills and Salaries Check Detail, as presented. Trustee Cox seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Aye – Bederman, Cox, Di Lorenzo, Pasko, Sennett, Fishman
 Nay – None
 Absent or not voting – Mullman
 MOTION CARRIED.

VI. Action Items.

- A. Ordinance No. 2025/26-215, Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Library Purposes for the Fiscal Year 2025-26. This ordinance was passed in tentative form at the July 15, 2025 meeting of the Board. Trustee Di Lorenzo motioned approval of Ordinance No. 2025/26-215, Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Library Purposes for the Fiscal Year 2025-26 in Final Form, as presented. Trustee Bederman seconded.

Aye – Bederman, Cox, Di Lorenzo, Pasko, Sennett, Fishman
 Nay – None
 Absent or not voting – Mullman
 MOTION CARRIED. *The Ordinance is attached.*

- B. Resolution No. 2025/26-221, Amending a Plan and Estimating Costs. The resolution outlines potential long-range capital fund expenditures in the Special Reserve Fund, incorporating maintenance projects identified in the 2020 Capital Reserve Study and estimates presented as part of the 2024 Space Needs Assessment. Trustee Sennett moved approval of Resolution No. 2025/26-221, A Resolution Amending a Plan and Estimating Costs, as presented. Trustee Cox seconded.

Aye – Bederman, Cox, Di Lorenzo, Pasko, Sennett, Fishman
 Nay – None
 Absent or not voting – Mullman
 MOTION CARRIED. *The Resolution is attached.*

- C. Illinois State Library Annual Report (IPLAR) for FY 2024-25. Director Auston noted this annual statistical collection is a contingency for the application of the Per Capita Grant and helps in a number of planning purposes in that it's a benchmark for trending. Trustee Bederman motioned to approve IPLAR for 2024-25. Trustee Di Lorenzo seconded.

Aye – Bederman, Cox, Di Lorenzo, Pasko, Sennett, Fishman
 Nay – None
 Absent or not voting – Mullman
 MOTION CARRIED.

VII. Director's Report.

- 24,000 visitors in July with an average of 806 unique users each day.
- 206 new cardholders in July, including 46 new students from District 39.
- Nearly 18,000 unexpired cards.
- September is National Card Sign up month – library staff have been at Kenilworth's food truck Mondays and will participate in Wilmette's Block Party on September 6.
- Strong circulation in July with 58,000 items circulating and over 18,000 checkouts via OverDrive.
- Hoopla saw its highest ever usage with 1,800 checkouts in July.
- Our consortium, Cooperative Computer Services, will welcome Vernon Area Library as its 32nd member library on September 3. With Vernon's addition, over 150,000 titles and 23,000 new patrons will join the consortium.
- WPLD will be offline for the Vernon migration: from 8/28 - 9/2 the shared catalog will be down and services will be slightly affected.
- Staff achieved a significant milestone in the Collection Revitalization Project, uniting all of the adult and teen non-fiction collections on the south side of the lower level of the library.
- The asbestos abatement project in the former 900s room is planned for 9/8-19. Books Down Under will close until early October, and Friends book donations will be paused 9/1-10/30.
- Friends will celebrate BDU's reopening with a pop up shop later this fall.
- The lower level north room will be painted and carpeted in late September/early October.
- TS Manager Jessica Thomson has left us to join Northbrook Public Library. The library is currently recruiting for its next TS Manager.
- We just wrapped up the annual Summer Reading Clubs – summary reports will be shared at next month's meeting.

VIII. Committees - Report on Meetings.

- A. ILA / RAILS Updates. Trustee Sennett noted RAILS received Illinois library Association's Intellectual Freedom Award for the development of the Unite Against Book Bans Regional Response Team which recognizes volunteers for their outstanding support of fellow librarians and contributions to defending intellectual freedom. Trustee Sennett noted on 7/31, a bipartisan group of senators rejected cuts to education and libraries. Signed State Bill 1550 will allow funds to be made available by the state to improve or enhance security of libraries beginning January 2026.
- B. Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee Update. Trustees Sennett and Mullman will join the September 4, 2025 meeting.

IX. Information Items.

- A. Communication. Comments from suggestion boxes were distributed at the meeting.
- B. Director Auston noted ILA's conference will be 10/14-16 in Rosemont, IL and that 10/16 is trustee day.

X. New Business. None.

XI. Adjournment.

Trustee Pasko moved to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

President

Board of Library Trustees of the
Wilmette Public Library, Cook County, IL

Secretary

Board of Library Trustees of the
Wilmette Public Library, Cook County, IL

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