



Board of Library Trustees Regular Meeting
Lower Level Auditorium
1242 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091
Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order and Roll Call.

President Fishman called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Secretary Di Lorenzo called roll.

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

VISITORS: Mary Smoley – League of Women Voters; resident Bob Lepkowski

STAFF: Marti Bellefontaine, Cathleen Blair, Sandra Discepolo, Lydia Hanchett, Andrea Vaughn Johnson, Marcos Levy

II. Review draft of September 16, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Trustee Bederman moved approval of September 16, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, as presented. Trustee Sennett seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

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

Nay – None

Absent or not voting – Cox, Mullman

MOTION CARRIED.

III. Public Comment. Long-time resident Bob Lepkowski expressed his continued support of staff's development of the library's collections and content.

IV. Presentations. FY 24-25 Annual Audit Presentation. Scott Termine, Vice President of Audit for Selden Fox, presented the Independent Auditors' Report, provided an overview of the FY 24-25 Annual Financial Report and its findings, and addressed any questions from the Board. The library once again had a clean audit report, with a positive recommendation and acknowledgement from the audit team. The audit confirmed the year-end financial reporting that, while the library had planned nearly \$350,000 in deficit spending last fiscal year, instead it turned a \$350,000 surplus due to a combination of strong investment revenue performance and conservative spending. The final audit report will be delivered in the coming weeks and will subsequently be published on the website:

<https://www.wilmettelibrary.info/about-us/about-the-library/library-finances-budget-overview> Trustee Bederman moved to accept the 2024-25 Annual Financial Report from

Selden Fox, as presented. Trustee Di Lorenzo seconded.

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

Nay – None

Absent or not voting – Mullman

MOTION CARRIED.

V. Treasurer's Report.

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

- The library received just less than \$5,000 in property taxes this month. Cook County has not distributed bills for the 2024 second installment property taxes.
- \$30,000 was received in combined interest from the general fund, special reserve fund, and MaxSafe account.
- Currently showing a \$1.4 million loss because we have not received the tax levy.
- Expenses are trending at about 25%, which is on target for 3 months into the fiscal year.

B. Bills and Salaries Check Detail for September 2025. Trustee Di Lorenzo moved approval of the September 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. Resolution No. 2025/26-222: National Friends of Libraries Week 2025 Proclamation. President Fishman read the resolution honoring the contributions of our volunteer corps, declaring October 19-25 Friends of the Library week at Wilmette Public Library. Trustee Pasko moved approval of Resolution No. 2025/26-222: National Friends of Libraries Week 2025 Proclamation, as presented. Trustee Sennett seconded.

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

B. Holiday Closings for Calendar Year 2026. Trustee Di Lorenzo moved approval of the Holiday Closings for Calendar Year 2026, as presented. Trustee Pasko seconded.

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

VII. Discussion Items.

A. Summary of Finance Committee meeting of October 15, 2025, and discussion of draft Ordinance No. 2025/26-216, An Ordinance Levying Taxes for Library Purposes for the Fiscal Year 2025/26, for a total of \$6,852,350. Trustee Bederman reported that on October 15, the Finance Committee met to discuss the levy ordinance for 2025/2026 which included a presentation by consultant Andrew Kim of PMA who went over the long range financial projection and forecasting tables. Mr. Kim reviewed the library's general fund based upon historic and projected tax levies, again noting his projection that the library will sustain an operating loss going forward each projected year through 2030, as taxes are capped but expenses are projected to increase more than 5%. Based on the analysis, the Finance Committee agreed to propose to the board as a whole a

recommendation of a 4.9% increase over last year's levy extension (even though the actual total will be capped below that figure due to CPI, but which is recommended in order to capture any new property). Introductory information was appended to the board packet, and also to the committee materials (posted on the website: <https://www.wilmettelibrary.info/about-us/board-of-trustees>). The Board is expected to take action on this item at the November 18, 2025 Regular Meeting. The deadline for filing the levy ordinance with the County Clerk is the last Tuesday in December.

VIII. Director's Report. Included in Director Auston's written report were additional steps that were taken this past month in meeting goals, including key statistics, and updates to library collections, programs, and services, as well as staff news. In his verbal report he highlighted a number of details across all departments, including celebrating United Against Hate Week by having Cook County Commissioner Scott Britton's office promote this campaign in the vestibule on Thursday, October 23 from 2-6pm, and celebrating Freedom to Read Week October 5-11. This important week of advocacy was promoted with interactive displays in both the Adult and Youth Services departments to help bring awareness to this important topic. Also shared was the news of Baker & Taylor ceasing operations, and fielded questions from the Board. This business closure represents an extraordinarily disruptive event for public libraries, which will have lost one of their major channels for acquiring materials. Staff are working on interim plans to ensure continuity of services and leveraging both current alternate vendors as well as exploring new options.

Also shared were the following statistics/news:

- The library saw 20,319 visitors in September, averaging 700 unique users each day.
- For the first time since 2022-2023, we had over 50,000 checkouts in September.
- We welcomed 179 new cardholders in September, including 33 new D39 student cards.
- Hoopla saw its highest usage ever for the third month in a row, at 1,855 borrows. The Hoopla digital media service allows you to instantly borrow movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics, and TV shows to enjoy on your personal devices.
- Mango Languages had its highest recorded monthly usage at 194 sessions. Mango Languages offers dozens of language courses, plus English lessons in many languages and specialty courses that teach cultural differences.
- New York Times All Access has had record usage this month, with 6,173 sessions. Our previous high water mark for this resource was July 2025, with 4,441 sessions. Learn more about how to get free daily access to the digital edition of The New York Times, including News, Cooking, Games, Wirecutter, and The Athletic on our website.

Director Auston closed the overview by updating the Board on our Collection Revitalization Project. We successfully completed the abatement project in mid-September, painted the room in late September, and carpeting has been essentially completed. Another flooring contractor will come out and strip and wax most of the hard surface floors in the building, including the adjacent Friends bookstore, Books Down Under. We anticipate Friends will return and prepare to reopen on Monday, November 3. The North Room will feature additional study options until we relocate collections to this space in the coming months.

Facilities team has also had the Youth Program Room repainted, as well as the transitional space between the main Youth room and the Junior High room, where we display the interactive art display "Who Are We?" by Eric Nye. The team is also updating the walls in several restrooms this month.

IX. Committees - Report on Meetings.

- A. ILA / RAILS Updates. Trustee Sennett spoke to the IMLS act expiring on September 30th and as the government is shut down, it remains expired. ILA and RAILS have legislative priorities which include annual trustee training. Trustee Sennett shared RAILS has a new resource sharing map which includes library coverage in Illinois. Lots of education at RAILS last meeting on delivery services provided by RAILS. The next RAILS meeting is Friday, October 24. President Fishman and Trustee Sennett attended ILA (as did staff representatives) and noted their appreciation for the intellectual freedom training for trustees and the ethics presentation.
- B. Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee Update. Trustees Sennett and Mullman will attend the rescheduled October 30, 2025 meeting.

X. Information Items.

- A. Communication. Comments from suggestion boxes were distributed at the meeting.
- B. Director Auston noted President Fishman will present at the League of Women Voters state of the village event on October 22, 2025, at 7pm at Mallinckrodt.

XI. New Business. None.

XII. Adjournment.

Trustee Di Lorenzo moved to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. The meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

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