



Board of Library Trustees Regular Meeting
Lower Level Auditorium
1242 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091
Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order and Roll Call.

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

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

ABSENT: None

VISITORS: Georgia Gebhardt, Anne Treadway – League of Women Voters Wilmette, residents Elizabeth Gobbi, Mark Steen, and Leslie Weyrich

STAFF: Alex Barzallo, Marti Bellefontaine, Cathleen Blair, Sandra Discepolo, Andrea Vaughn Johnson, Marcos Levy

II. Review draft of October 21, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Trustee Di Lorenzo moved approval of the October 21, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, as presented. Trustee Sennett seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

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

Nay – None

Absent or not voting – None

MOTION CARRIED

III. Public Comment. League of Women Voters Wilmette Co-President Anne Treadway shared league's support of the commendable steps the library has taken to educate our community about immigration enforcement and acknowledged planned future community engagement events to further educate and support the community through know your rights training. Ms. Treadway voiced the League's support of WPLD's Resolution No. 2025/26-224: Resolution Prohibiting the Use of Library Parking Lots, Grounds and Resources for Civil Immigration Enforcement Staging Areas, Processing Locations, and/or Operations Bases, as well as Wilmette Village Board Ordinance #2025-O-92, an Ordinance in response to Operation Midway Blitz, limiting federal agents use of village properties for civil immigration activities. Resident Leslie Weyrich expressed thanks for the library's taking the lead as a governing body on the proposed Resolution.

IV. Presentations. None.

V. Treasurer's Report.

A. Financial Report for October 2025. Trustee Bederman shared his report:

- \$12,500 was received in replacement taxes.
- First quarter payment from Kenilworth has been received.

- General Fund received \$15,064 in interest, the Reserve Fund received \$12,410 in interest, and \$808 was received in interest in the MaxSafe account.
- Expenses are at 34%, which correlates to 4 months into the year.
- Operating loss of negative \$2 million as we have not received any levy income.
- Interest rates were cut by 24 basis points, and any reinvestments should be expected to be cut as well.
- Final analysis report from PMA is attached to the levy materials and posted on the website Budget & Finance page, and provides helpful insight to the library's long range financial position.

B. Bills and Salaries Check Detail for October 2025. Trustee Mullman moved approval of the October 2025 Bills and Salaries Check Detail, as presented. Trustee Pasko seconded the motion.

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

VI. Action Items.

A. Review and approval of 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. Introductory information and background scenarios leading to the proposed levy are appended to this attachment on the board website. The Board previously discussed this item at the October 15, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting and the October 21, 2025 Regular Meeting. The levy as approved includes a 4.9% increase over the prior year's tax extension. The deadline for filing the levy ordinance with the County Clerk is the last Tuesday in December. Trustee Sennett moved approval of 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, as presented. Trustee Bederman seconded the motion.

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

B. Review and approve Resolution No. 2025/26-223, Instructions to the Cook County Clerk Regarding the Wilmette Public Library District's 2025-26 Levy. Trustee Di Lorenzo moved approval of Resolution No. 2025/26-223, Instructions to the Cook County Clerk Regarding the Wilmette Public Library District's Fiscal Year 2025-26 Levy, as presented. Trustee Bederman seconded. There was no discussion.

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

C. Resolution No. 2025/26-224: Resolution Prohibiting the Use of Library Parking Lots, Grounds and Resources for Civil Immigration Enforcement Staging Areas, Processing

Locations, and/or Operations Bases. Director Auston presented the Resolution and its context, stating public libraries serve as safe and welcoming spaces where everyone, regardless of race or national origin, enjoys open access to enriching resources including technology tools, skills development, language learning, job search assistance, civic literacy and citizenship programs, and community engagement opportunities. As a result of these services, libraries support economic mobility, social integration, and civic participation for everyone, including immigrants and their families. Ensuring equitable and consistent access to the library and its mission-based resources is rooted in librarian professional ethics and strengthens our communities as a whole. The Resolution references and aligns with the Village's Ordinance in an effort to help ensure that library spaces remain safe, trusted welcoming centers for people of all backgrounds, including immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, newcomers, and undocumented residents. Trustee Bederman moved approval of Resolution No. 2025/26-224: Resolution Prohibiting the Use of Library Parking Lots, Grounds and Resources for Civil Immigration Enforcement Staging Areas, Processing Locations, and/or Operation Bases, as presented. Trustee Sennett seconded.

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

Nay – None

Absent or not voting – None

MOTION CARRIED. *The Resolution is attached.*

D. Review and approve Libraries of Illinois Risk Agency (LIRA) renewal of Property / Casualty and Workers Compensation Insurance for December 31, 2025 - December 31, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$67,000. The library has been a member of the LIRA insurance pool since 2017. The expiring annual agreement totaled \$65,391. Trustee Mullman moved approval of the Libraries of Illinois Risk Agency (LIRA) renewal of Property / Casualty and Workers Compensation Insurance for December 31, 2025 - December 31, 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$67,000. Trustee Cox seconded the motion.

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

Nay – None

Absent or not voting – None

MOTION CARRIED

E. Cancellation of December 2025 Regular Board Meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16, 2025. If the December meeting is cancelled, the next Regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, January 20, 2026. Trustee Pasko moved that the Board of Library Trustees cancel the previously scheduled Tuesday, December 16, 2025 Regular Board Meeting and resume business at the next Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2026. Trustee Mullman seconded the motion.

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

Nay – None

Absent or not voting – None

MOTION CARRIED

VII. Discussion Items. None.

VIII. Director's Report.

Director Auston noted the following from his report:

- November/December newsletter is now published and includes the first in-home delivery of the annual report.
- The upcoming Wilmette Reads programming celebrates the power of retellings with the primary text being *This Motherless Land* by Nikki May, and will be supported with associated programs and additional retellings that align with the theme.
- Our thriving partnership with the Village of Wilmette, Wilmette Park District, and New Trier Township addresses food insecurity in our community with the continuing food pantry donation project in our vestibule.
- Youth Services Manager Andrea Vaughn Johnson has been invited to participate in a panel presentation with School District 39 partners at the annual convention of the IL Assoc. of School Boards, the IL Assoc. of School Business Officials, and the IL Assoc. of School Administrators.
- Cooperative Computer Services updates include Rolling Meadows and Wauconda joining the consortium in fall 2026, and the Bibliocore catalog discovery layer launching in spring 2026.
- 22,159 people visited the library in October, averaging 715 unique users each day.
- We welcomed 127 new cardholders in October, and 8 new D39 student cards.
- Technical Services team was able to acquire and manually process over 1,500 items this month, despite Baker & Taylor's demise. The TS team has added over 17,000 new titles to the circulating collection this year.
- In support of Freedom to Read Week, we hosted City Lit Theater Company who presented *Books on the Chopping Block*, featuring professional actors reading excerpts from the top 10 most frequently challenged books in the U.S. from 2024. Communications & Events staff partnered with Adult Services to surprise attendees with their choice of a free challenged book to take home (generously funded by the Friends). Adult Services Manager Cathleen Blair and Assistant Manager Rachel Garcia provided support and answered questions from patrons.
- This month we launched two new Chicago Tribune online resources: Online Access (website) and Digital Edition (online version of the daily print edition).
- We officially launched our new payroll, time-keeping, and learning management platform from Paylocity this month. Staff participated in a variety of training opportunities and have been adapting well to the change. We anticipate launching the HR component of the system in early 2026.
- We're also in the process of deploying Windows 11 to all library computers, rounding out a year of many new technological deployments ranging from a new telephone system, new office productivity and collaboration software, new payroll system, and now a new operating system.
- On October 17, staff reported a very productive experience as part of the Half Day Staff Day, when over 70 staff directly reviewed and participated in emergency procedure drills and training.
- Multiple staff and trustees attended the annual Illinois Library Association conference, October 14-16, including a data preconference and special trustee-only track.
- On October 23, Genealogy and Local History Librarian EvaAnne Johnson was elected Chair of the Illinois State Archives Advisory Board and the Illinois State Historical

Records Advisory Board, on which she has served as Vice Chair for the past year. In addition to serving as a dual board for the functions above, this entity bears responsibility for distributing regrant funds received from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for the preservation of historical records in Illinois.

- Youth Services completed its fall Kindergarten Field Trip Program this week. Relaunched in fall 2024 after a hiatus since 2019, kindergarten visits have become an essential part of our school engagement program. This year, we hosted visits with Romona, McKenzie, Central, Joseph Sears, Central, and Harper Schools.
- As reported last month, our plans to renovate the lower-level North Room have been in full swing with the major work on that space being complete. We're now turning our attention to the first floor and our goals for the Circulation Lobby in early 2026.
- Senator Laura Murphy sponsored Senate Resolution 104 which recognizes the vital role of library trustees and encourages trustees to seek the training and support needed for their vital roles.

IX. Committees - Report on Meetings.

- A. ILA / RAILS Updates. Trustee Sennett also spoke to IL Senate Resolution 104 and the iLead and RAILS L2 platforms.
- B. Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee. Trustee Mullman attended the October 30 meeting which provided updates from local governmental units and to start the discussion on civility. With then-current immigration enforcement matters taking priority, the discussion on civility was tabled until the January meeting.

X. Information Items.

- A. Communication. Comments from suggestion boxes were distributed at the meeting.

XI. New Business.

XII. Adjournment.

Trustee Di Lorenzo moved to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

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