

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order and Roll Call.

President Fishman called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Director Auston called the roll.

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

ABSENT: Trustee Di Lorenzo

VISITORS: None

STAFF: Marti Bellefontaine, Cathleen Blair, Sandra Discepolo, Christine Hightower, Marcos Levy

II. Review draft of November 18, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Trustee Sennett moved approval of the November 18, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, as presented. Trustee Mullman seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Aye- Bederman, Cox, Mullman, Pasko, Sennett, Fishman

Nay- None

Absent or not voting – Di Lorenzo

MOTION CARRIED.

III. Public Comment. None.

IV. Presentations. None.

V. Treasurer's Report.

A. Financial Reports for November and December 2025. Trustee Bederman shared his report:

- November saw interest income and miscellaneous operating expenses of \$53,357 and donations of \$2,200.
- In December the first payment of the 2024 tax year second installment property taxes was received from Cook County in the amount of \$2,340,715, as well as \$74,764 in interest income and miscellaneous operating expenses, and \$1,520 in donations.
- Expenses for the 6 month period were at 48% of budgeted expense amount. Notable exceptions are periodicals, digital resources, Rutherford Trust Expenditures, employee insurance, computer/equipment and maintenance, building supplies, and library vehicle expenses.
- Total Special Reserve Fund expenses are \$57,051, about 22.8% of annual budget.
- Expenses in November and December over \$10,000 included OverDrive, Selden Fox, Computer View, Wellness Insurance Network, and Amazon.

- B. Bills and Salaries Check Detail for November and December 2025. Trustee Cox moved approval of the November and December 2025 Bills and Salaries Check Detail, as presented. Trustee Pasko seconded the motion.

Aye- Bederman, Cox, Mullman, Pasko, Sennett, Fishman

Nay- None

Absent or not voting – Di Lorenzo

MOTION CARRIED.

VI. Action Items. None.

VII. Director's Report. Director Auston noted the following from his report:

- The library saw 22,000 visitors each in November and December, averaging about 730 unique users each day.
- 140 new cardholders in November (including 10 new D39 students), and 109 in December.
- We have over 18,000 active library cards; our strongest active engagement on record.
- While physical circulation statistics were down in December, winter weather and holiday timing were likely a factor. Physical circulation at just under 47,000 was slightly slower than an average month. OverDrive checkouts averaged over 19,000 each month in 2025.
- The Winter newsletter was delivered in late December, highlighting an array of programs, events, and services for all ages.
- Winter Reading Clubs and Wilmette Reads programming continue through February 15.
- Generous and continued support from the Friends, with strong year-end donations and sales, including a successful pop-up shop in December.
- Popular programs and big draws at year end, from Bluey to Bobby Lewis, K-Pop Demon Hunters to Let's Learn Together, Minecraft to Genealogy, and so much in between for all ages and interests to enjoy.
- New TS Manager, Sarah DeHaan, starts in February. Meanwhile TS and librarian teams are working to launch material acquisition and pre-processing with new vendors Libraria and Ingram.
- Facilities challenges and successes were discussed.
- The board was updated and given an overview of the Collection Revitalization Project upcoming timeline and milestones. Work is expected to begin on select Circulation lobby furnishings in mid-February, with the holds shelving likely being installed the week of February 23; communications will be shared throughout the process. It is intended for this work to be substantially completed outside regular open hours to reduce impacts.

VIII. Committees – Report on Meetings.

- A. ILA/RAILS Update. Trustee Sennett reported that RAILS board met in November at the Galesburg Public Library, and spoke to their new library building and its funding. Funding from IMLS has been reinstated. RAILS advocacy meeting on January 8 included discussion of house bill which would increase per capita grant funding. No ILA Report.
- B. Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee Report. Trustee Sennett attended the January 15 ICC meeting in which all local government officials gave updates and committee work was discussed. The next meeting will be April 9 at 5:00pm at Mikaelian Center.

IX. Information Items.

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

B. Policy Committee will meet Friday, February 13, 2026, at 2:00pm to conduct a first reading and review of draft policies including digital and maker resources and privacy policy.

X. New Business. None.

XI. Adjournment. Trustee Bederman moved to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. The meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.

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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