



LIBRARY BOARD of COMMISSIONERS
Wednesday, November 19, 2025, 7:45 am
Minutes

Present: Gale Batsimm, Sally Blanchard-O'Brien, Megan Butterfield, Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Emily Copeland, Chol Dhoor, Sam Doherty, Samantha Donalds, Emer Pond Feeney, Patrick Halladay, Cate MacLachlan, Amy Mellencamp, Wells Shelley, Rebecca Thompson, Mona Tolba.

Approval of minutes: from September 17. Becca Thompson moved, Cate MacLachlan seconded, approved.

Approval of agenda: Emily Copeland moved, Becca Thompson seconded, approved.

Public Forum: No public in attendance.

Friends of FFL Report:.

- Friends' MoU with the City has been approved by Board of Finance and City Council.
- Friends' book sale will be December 6 & 7 at the Main Library.
- Recent events included book sales at NNE Branch and at the Non-Fiction Comics Festival, and a fundraiser with American Flatbread.
- Capital Campaign recently held two successful Civic Reads book discussions.
- Annual Appeal is Friends' largest annual fundraiser to support operating expenses--goal is 100% commission participation.

Director's Report:

- NonFiction Comics Fest on November 15 brought more than 1000 attendees to the library.
- Dog Man event welcomed 250 people to the youth area for an exciting program.
- Construction Fest, in partnership with Church Street Marketplace, DPW, and Dad Guild, was a huge success.
- Many staff recently took CPR/AED training; the library, thanks to the Friends, has an AED (defibrillator).
- Library will be open limited service noon – 4 pm on Thanksgiving and Christmas and will distribute to-go meals.
- Service Inventories are being completed by department heads.

Youth Services Department Update:

- Summer Challenge Program visited 16 sites across the city during seven weeks this summer. Two summer staff brought enthusiasm and activities to parks, nutrition sites, and camps, to provide free books and literacy engagement to youth. This program reached 1028 kids, 289 teens, and 448 adults, and added 810 books to kids' home libraries.

Subcommittee update:

- Strategic Planning Committee's 2025-2028 Strategic Directions will be brought to City Council.
- Policy Committee has been drafted social media policy and is working on an art exhibit and display policy.

New/Other Business:

Library will hold Mini Golf Fundraiser on March 20 & 21, 2026.

Adjournment: Emily Copeland moved, Chol Dhoor seconded. Approved.