



COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY
3939 Central Ave NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421
BOARD OF TRUSTEES: MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 1st, 2026

Approved
5/6/2026

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC

Members of the public who wished to attend could do so in-person, or via Microsoft Teams by entering **Meeting ID 245 476 655 774 13** and **passcode bY2b8Mf7** at the scheduled meeting time. For questions, please contact Administration at 763-706-3610.

The meeting was called to order in the Library Community Room by Theresa Strike at 5:32pm.

Members present: Theresa Strike; Beth Al-Qudah; Olga Herrera; Amina Maameri; Laurel Deneen (City Council Liaison).

Members remotely present: N/A. **Members absent:** Chris Polley. **Others present:** Renee Dougherty (Library Director); Sara Ion (City Clerk); Nick Olberding (Board Secretary). **Public present:** N/A.

1. The **Agenda** was **approved** as is.
2. New member, Beth Al-Qudah, took the **Oath of Office** in the presence of Sara Ion, City Clerk, who swore her in, had her sign the Oath, and notarized it. Welcome to the Library Board! Introductions were made with Beth telling us she is a psychiatric nurse practitioner who graduated from the University of Minnesota and has lived in Columbia Heights since 2019. She's happy to find herself on the Library Board but was open to being placed on any of the City's Boards or Commissions.
3. Beth's **Orientation** was done before the meeting began, but Sara stayed to allow other members a chance for a **Refresher** and an opportunity to ask any questions they have. Included in the meeting packet was a presentation and overview of the City structure, Boards and member responsibilities, and the Library's functions/goals.
4. At the behest of current vice-chair, Theresa Strike, the **Annual Election of Officers** was tabled until the next meeting in the hope that all members will be present next month; our missing member has not been interested in officer positions in past years, but just in case, we decided to postpone elections.
5. The **Minutes** from **March 4, 2026**, Library Board Meeting were **moved and approved**.
6. **Review of 2026 Operating Budget:** 24.66% of the year completed and 19.25% of the budget expended.
 - a. Nothing of note; The Board joked about boiler repairs, to which Renee said we will be getting a replacement this year, but that will be through the City capital budget, not the Library operating budget.

Community Forum: Opportunity for public input. **No correspondence and no public in attendance.** The CHPL website hosts the contact form to submit questions or concerns: <https://chplmn.org/board>

New Business:

7. **Review and Consider Approving 2025 Minnesota Public Library Annual Report Submission:** Each year the Board reviews the Library's Annual Report that is submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education, something all public libraries are required to do by law (MN Statute 134.13). The Board reviewed the report and commented on some of the differences between 2024 and 2025; specifically the increase in visits, program attendance, website visits (although before last year we only had one section of the City's website,) public PC sessions (partially due to the nearest Hennepin County Library being closed much of last year), and the decrease in reference questions (Renee mentioned there was a change in how we tally some types of reference questions). **A Motion to approve the submission of the 2025 Minnesota Public Library Annual Report was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.**

Director's Update:

8. **February Board Report:** Provided for information.

- a. The **Celebrate Spring & the Year of the Horse (Vietnamese Tét event)** that was postponed due to Operation Metro Surge will occur on Saturday April 4th for children and families.
 - b. The Board commented on MSNBC filming an interview at the Library. Renee clarified that the Library was just the filming location of an interview they set up with a Metro Surge impacted resident. They set up by the laptop counter and did not involve the Library or staff in the story.
9. **Board Books** (what we're reading, watching, playing, listening to, or simply recommend):
- a. Theresa: ***Don't Trust Fish*** (youth picture book) Neil Sharpson
 - b. Beth: ***The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*** (youth historical fiction) Avi
 - c. Amina: ***Once Upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices*** S.K. Ali & Aisha Saeed
 - d. Olga: ***Umami*** Laia Jufresa (translated by Sophie Hughes)
 - e. Laurel: ***WYND*** (graphic novel series) James Tynion IV & Michael Dialynas
 - f. Renee: ***Eight Billion Genies*** (graphic novel series) Charles Soule & Ryan Browne (Library Book Club selection)
 - g. Nick: ***Project Hail Mary*** Andy Weir; ***Project Hail Mary*** Phil Lord (in theaters, not yet available on DVD)
 - h. Sara: ***One Hundred Years of Solitude*** Gabriel García Márquez (translated by Gregory Rabassa)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nick Olberding

Recording Secretary, CHPL Board of Trustees