



COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY

3939 Central Ave NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 5th, 2026

Approved

9/2/2026

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 **History** Room by Theresa Strike at 5:30pm.

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

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

1. The **Agenda** was **approved** as is.
2. The **Minutes** from **July 1, 2026**, Library Board Meeting were **moved and approved**.
3. **Review of 2026 Operating Budget:** 58% of the year completed and 52% of the budget expended. Only one item of note--the \$1871 on line 45180 is for the 50% down payment on reupholstering several chairs/ottomans from the young adult area; we plan to refresh/replace a few items as needed rather than replacing whole sections at once.

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>

Old Business:

4. **Update on Proposed 2027 Budget:** Renee presented the proposed budget to Finance; they accepted it with no requests for modification. Next it will be presented to the City Council.
5. **July Outreach Events:** The Monarch Festival was well attended, and it was mentioned that there were many bilingual speakers available as translators. The Police Eat and Greet was a positive event in which we received compliments on our selection of programming and the Summer Reading Challenge. Upcoming events include the Public Safety Open House and the rescheduled Art & Info Fair.
6. **Self-Checkout Station Update:** Bibliotheca has submitted a formal proposal (HCL/RCL/ACL all use this vendor) and Renee is working on getting a proposal from TechLogic but would like to know where their maintenance staff is located for tech support purposes (Bibliotheca is local and available for onsite support). More info to come.

New Business:

7. **Mid-Year Performance Dashboard:** Provided for informational purposes showing Jan-June (for 2024-2026).
 - a. The year 2025 was a bit of an anomaly as the Northeast (Hennepin County Library) was closed for most of the year which accounted for an influx of additional visitors.
 - b. Looking at 2024 and 2026 stats, visitor count, computer use, and programs have mostly increased, although program attendance has gone down.
8. **MN Libraries Read Together Event Planning** (Saturday, September 19th, 2026): The Board was provided with a best practices planning guide provided by the overall event organizers as a basis for individual events; they were asked about any additional ideas to include in the event.
 - a. Staff ideas included Book Spine Poetry, Sidewalk Chalk, Button-making with discarded books, Spanish storytime with the Mayor, comfy seating, writing prompt sheets, Read Dogs with Kansas (CHPD's K9).
 - b. ACL is having an event at one branch where they will feature a band and will be doing postcards to MN State Representatives.
 - c. Board ideas included a Library Quiz or Wayfinding Scavenger Hunt to promote knowledge of the Library layout and services provided, video testimonials station, signage/posters promoting lesser-known Library collections and services.

Director's Update:

9. **June Board Report:** Provided for informational purposes.
- a. Two Anoka County Libraries will be undergoing renovations this fall.
 - b. MELSA will be making some changes to Libby in October, restricting the total requests and limiting users to only having an account for their home county rather than allowing a separate account in each county where their card is registered.
 - c. The Board asked if we would be looking into a printing kiosk replacement; Anoka County is going to search for an alternative solution in 2027 so we will be waiting until then.
 - d. Something to think about for next year, "Night to Unite/National Night Out @ the Library".
10. **Board Books** (what we're reading, watching, playing, listening to, or simply recommend):
- a. Theresa: ***Revenge of the Librarians*** Tom Gauld; ***Common Backyard Weeds of the Upper Midwest*** Teresa Marrone
 - b. Beth: ***Falling Stars*** Anita Mills; ***Educated*** Tara Westover
 - c. Amina: ***New Ideas from Dead CEOs: Lasting Lessons from the Corner Office*** Todd G. Buchholz
 - d. Laurel: ***Heartstopper #1*** (graphic novel) Alice Oseman
 - e. Olga: ***The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World*** Robin Wall Kimmerer
 - f. Renee: ***Chain of Ideas: The Origins of Our Authoritarian Age*** Ibram X. Kendi
 - g. Nick: ***ReAnimal (Playstation 5)*** Tarsier Studios (available via Anoka County Library)
 - h. Chris: ***Secrets (Blood in the Sun series)*** Nuruddin Farah; ***Penguin on a Scooter*** Caspar Babypants

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Nick Olberding
Recording Secretary, CHPL Board of Trustees