



**COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
3939 Central Ave NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES: MEETING MINUTES**  
Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Drafted  
5/7/2026

**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 5:33pm.

**Members present:** Theresa Strike; Beth Al-Qudah; Olga Herrera; Chris Polley; Laurel Deneen (City Council Liaison). **Members absent:** Amina Maameri. **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 **April 1, 2026**, Library Board Meeting were **moved and approved**.
3. The **Annual Election of Officers** was revisited after being tabled last month due to a member's absence; a different member was missing tonight, but consensus said they were not interested in a nomination for the Chair/Vice-Chair position last meeting. Theresa Strike was nominated as Chair and Olga Herrera nominated as Vice-Chair. There being no objections, **a motion was made to elect Theresa Strike as Chair and Olga Herrera as Vice-Chair, it was seconded and approved**.
4. **Review of 2026 Operating Budget:** 32.88% of the year completed and 27.03% of the budget expended.
  - a. **Periodicals, Magazines, & Newspapers (42181)** costs have increased by about 10%. Renee wanted to mention this due to titles still in print having been increasing in price. We will likely be cancelling our *USA Today* subscription after the current term and may re-evaluate the *Sunday New York Times* (which is \$700+ for 1-year). Local newspapers are also expensive, but we have multiple people who visit daily to read the *Star Tribune* and *St. Paul Pioneer Press*.
  - b. **Volunteer Recognition (44375)** usually consists of a pizza party for Volun-Teens at the end of summer, and an appreciation gift for adult volunteers near the end of each year. Volunteers are also recognized by the City Council at one of their regular meetings.

**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:**

5. **Summer Programming:** Renee mentioned that our Summer Event Newsletter for June is ready for release and the Summer Reading Program will proceed as usual starting in June after the Columbia Heights School year ends for the summer. Due to user feedback from last summer, youth programs will extend later into August; some parents shared that there's a need for organized activities at the end of summer after the various camps have wrapped for the season. Storytime will start again in June. Adult Book Clubs will continue through the summer.
6. **Request for Assistance at City Outreach Events:** Renee is hoping for members to help represent the Library at a couple of upcoming City events: the **Community Art & Info Fair from 4-7pm on June 17 at Huset Park West** and the **Monarch Festival from 4-7pm on July 23 at Kordiak Park**. All members in attendance expressed interest in one or the other and would reach out to Renee later to confirm which one they would be able to help with.
7. **National Library Week Proclamation:** Chris attended the City Council meeting to accept the proclamation on behalf of the Library. He brought it with him to tonight's meeting and passed it along to Renee.

**Director's Update:**

8. **March Board Report:** Provided for informational purposes.
- a. Olga wanted to let the group know that now that **S.A.C.A.** is at their new location and appointments are no longer needed to visit their food market. Previously you needed an appointment and visits were limited, but now the market is open for walk-ins and is not restricted to a certain number of visits. SACA also does not collect personal information. We will be reaching out again to see about partnership opportunities such as being a drop-off location for donations.
  - b. The Board was pleased to see increasing attendance at **Storytime** and **Conversation Circle** events.
  - c. Beth mentioned that she continues learning about services and materials that the Library offers and suggested that the Library social media accounts could promote one each month; specifically mentioning **Kanopy** for video streaming, **special collections** throughout the county, **Libby e-books**, and others.
  - d. A meeting with the city's Green Corps intern was noted; this discussion on **sustainability initiatives** could result in obtaining **Power Meters** and **Draft-check Meters** for the Library's collection, which could give residents a free self-service option to save money and increase energy efficiency at home.
  - e. It was brought up that Hennepin County Library was discontinuing **Kanopy** due to costs; so far Columbia Heights and Anoka County will continue the service. Chris asked if there was any way CHPL and ACL could explore access to Hennepin County's local music archive **MNSpin**.
9. **Board Books** (what we're reading, watching, playing, listening to, or simply recommend):
- a. Theresa: ***Sisters in Hate: American Women on the Front Lines of White Nationalism*** Seyward Darby; ***Akata Witch (Nsibidi Scripts series)*** Nnedi Okorafor
  - b. Beth: ***Awake in the Floating City*** Susanna Kwan
  - c. Chris: ***We Need New Names*** NoViolet Bulawayo; ***The Farewell*** Lulu Wang (streaming on Kanopy)
  - d. Olga: ***Citizenship: Notes on an American Myth*** Daisy Hernández
  - e. Laurel: ***Uprooted*** Naomi Novik
  - f. Renee: ***Demon Copperhead*** Barbara Kingsolver
  - g. Nick: ***The Tainted Cup*** and ***A Drop of Corruption (Shadow of the Leviathan series)*** Robert Jackson Bennett

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

Respectfully submitted,

N

Nick Olberding  
Recording Secretary, CHPL Board of Trustees