



COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY

3939 Central Ave NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 1st, 2026

Drafted
7/2/2026

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 Community Room by Theresa Strike at 5:30pm.

Members present: Theresa Strike; Beth Al-Qudah; Amina Maameri; Laurel Deneen (City Council Liaison). **Members absent:** Olga Herrera; 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 **June 3, 2026**, Library Board Meeting were **moved and approved**.
3. **Review of 2026 Operating Budget:** 49.59% of the year completed and 44.96% of the budget expended. No issues noted by the Library Director, and no comments from the Board this month.

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. **2027 Proposed Budget:** A draft budget was included in the meeting packet, but a revised draft provided by the Finance Department was passed out to members to clarify that IT Service increases were reflected in department budgets, but revenue would come from the general fund. Originally the proposed increase was around 12%, but this revision reduces it by about half.

Director's Update:

5. **May Board Report:** Provided for informational purposes.
 - a. Board members were pleased to see the two **Arabic story times**, noting that the host of those events is now doing additional story times elsewhere in the county.
 - b. **School visits** and **field trips** were mentioned, including the impressive number of children participating.
 - c. Members were happy to see the **Minnesota State flag** survived attempted vandalism.
 - d. The Community Room has been booked for a youth event on the evening of the **August Board Meeting**, so we will be meeting in the Library History room next month.
6. **Board Books** (what we're reading, watching, playing, listening to, or simply recommend):
 - a. Theresa: **Platform Decay (Murderbot Diaries series)** Martha Wells
 - b. Beth: **The Life We Bury (Max Rupert and Joe Talbert series)** Allen Eskins
 - c. Amina: **Can You Keep a Secret?** and **I Owe You One** Sophie Kinsella
 - d. Laurel: **Represent: The Woman's Guide to Running for Office & Changing the World** June D. Raphael & Kate Black
 - e. Renee: **A Different Kind of Power: A Memoir** Jacinda Ardern (former New Zealand Prime Minister)
 - f. Nick: **Snow Crash** Neal Stephenson; **Platform Decay (Murderbot Diaries series)** Martha Wells

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Olberding

Recording Secretary, CHPL Board of Trustees