



COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY

3939 Central Ave NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026

Drafted
6/4/2026

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 5:31pm.

Members present: Theresa Strike; Beth Al-Qudah; Olga Herrera; Amina Maameri; Chris Polley; Laurel Deneen (City Council Liaison). **Members absent:** N/A. **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 **May 6, 2026**, Library Board Meeting were **moved and approved**.
3. **Review of 2026 Operating Budget:** 41.37% of the year completed and 37.40% of the budget expended.
 - a. **Compact Discs (42185)** budget has only expended 3.5% (35\$ spent of \$1000). As digital audiobooks and streaming music continues to grow in usage, and access to CD players continue to decline, fewer and fewer audio discs will be purchased (a decade ago we spent closer to \$5000/year on audio discs). It was mentioned that Hennepin County Library has ceased purchasing new CD/Audiobooks, and Ramsey County Library recently discarded their entire CD audiobook collection.
 - b. **Volunteer Recognition (44375)** usually consists of a pizza party or appreciation gift for Volun-Teens at the end of summer, and an appreciation gift for adult volunteers near year's end. Some years, Volunteers are also recognized by the City Council at one of their regular meetings—volunteers are welcomed to be present to accept the honor. Amina wondered if there could be an opportunity for the Board to kkkk;lklllmeet with our volunteers and Library staff members? As a Board member, she feels they could benefit from hearing directly about our day-to-day experiences at the Library; Renee will check whether there would be a good opportunity for this in the future.

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. **Art & Info Fair [Wed, June 17, 4-7pm, Huset Park West]:** Renee reminded the Board of the upcoming event and asked whether members would be available to represent the Library. Most said they were able to be on hand for at least a portion of the time and would split time between the Library and City Board/Commission booth.

New Business:

5. **Discussion of 2027 Budget Priorities:** We are currently fully staffed, and our service hours are stable at 50/week; the finance department is still working on finalizing projected personnel costs for next year. Renee mentioned the draft 2027 budget currently includes around \$50,000 for replacing all the **public computers** (City IT wants us to get on a regular replacement schedule of every 3-5 years), replacing our **self-checkout units** (downsizing from three to two in the process), and covering **increased Anoka County Library costs** for shared services/resources and delivery. The Board was asked to weigh in with input on other priorities for this budget or future years (regardless of cost/feasibility). Renee will have the proposed budget available for the Board to review at the July meeting.
 - a. **Self-Checks:** a recent report provided by ACL showed that check-outs at CHPL are split pretty evenly between the 3 self-checks and the service desk (this has contributed to the decision to reduce our total number of units); the decline in self-check usage can be attributed in part to the current units instability,

patrons needing to renew their account or update their Pin #'s, and others preferring the human interaction with staff. The Board asked if we would shop around to other vendors; yes, we will look into the other options available, but our current vendor (Bibliotheca) also provides our security gate and desktop RFID integration, Anoka County, Hennepin County and Ramsey County use Bibliotheca self-checks, and they are locally headquartered. The Board also had ideas like surveying patrons that check-out at the desk about why they don't use the self-checks, and how to promote the self-checks in the hopes of increasing usage (social media, video tutorials, posted instructions, etc).

- b. **Makerspace:** One of the wish list items would be a proper Makerspace or regular Makerspace events hosting 3D printers, embroidery machines, and other art/craft machines. Partnerships with local maker organizations were also mentioned (Toaster Innovation Hub at UMN, NE Tool Library, Leonardo's Basement, and Creative Cart Mobile Studio).
6. **Replacement of Self-Check Kiosks:** Discussion of this blended with the previous item due to it being part of the 2027 budget; see Item 5 for more information. Our 3 self-checks were purchased in 2015 and the OS (Windows 10) reached End-of-Support last October. Two of them have had numerous technical issues over the past couple years; one of which continues to have sporadic barcode reader/RFID antenna issues even after several service calls.

Director's Update:

7. **April Board Report:** Provided for informational purposes.
- a. **Correction** noted: Attendance for the April 27th events (EL Conversation Circle/Family Storytime) were accidentally swapped; will be corrected in the report.
 - b. The Board was curious about the meeting with the new owner of **Heights Theater**; our Adult Services Librarian met with them and discussed the possibility of Movie Club in which books that have been adapted into movies could be cross-promoted via book clubs and movie screenings, as well as timing some book displays around shows at the theater if there's a theme involved.
 - c. The Great Minnesota Read-Together will occur again this fall (September 18-20); re-branded as the **Minnesota Library Read-Together**. The Board would like to participate again, and we'll discuss details at a future meeting; one idea was to gather stories/comments on colored cards to assemble into a community collage. Also, the **CHPL's 100th Birthday** was mentioned since it's coming up soon (December 3, 2028).
8. **Board Books** (what we're reading, watching, playing, listening to, or simply recommend):
- a. Theresa: ***Star Trek: Open a Channel: A Woman's Trek*** Nana Visitor
 - b. Beth: ***Can You Keep a Secret*** Sophie Kinsella
 - c. Amina: ***Balanced and Barefoot: How Unrestricted Outdoor Play Makes for Strong, Confident, and Capable Children*** Angela J. Hanscom; ***Volcanoes: Fire and Life (Science Comics graphic series)*** John Chad
 - d. Olga: ***Last Summer on State Street: A Coming-of-Age Tale of Friendship and Resilience in 1990s Chicago*** Toya Wolfe; ***James*** Percival Everett
 - e. Laurel: ***How to Be Okay When Nothing Is Okay: Tips and Tricks That Kept Me Alive, Happy, and Creative in Spite of Myself*** Jenny Lawson
 - f. Renee: ***The Quiet Librarian*** Allen Eskins
 - g. Nick: ***The River We Remember*** William Kent Krueger
 - h. Chris: ***A Guide to Being Born*** Ramona Ausubel; ***Not A Box: A Celebration of the Power of Imagination*** Antoinette Portis

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Nick Olberding

Recording Secretary, CHPL Board of Trustees