



THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF BROOKLINE

Minutes of the Board of Library Trustees, Public Library of Brookline

A hybrid meeting of the Trustees of the Public Library was convened on Tuesday, July 08, 2025, at 6:18pm.

Present: Livingston, Bloomenthal, Goleman, Lohe, Margolis, Silver, Vanderkay, Vogt, Zelkha.

Absent: Chanyasulkit, Burstein, Hung.

Also present: Interim Library Director, D. Savin; Executive Assistant to the Library Director, C. Artavia.

Motion to convene by Margolis; Vogt seconds. All present vote yea, 6:18 p.m.

1. Comments from the Chair

1. Livingston reads the following statement from the Executive Committee: "The Executive Committee wishes to recognize and express appreciation to the Interim Director, Danielle Savin, and the Interim Assistant Director, Ryan Brennan, for keeping the library running during challenging circumstances."
2. The Executive Committee is pursuing leads for a search consultant and following up on several prospects. A brief discussion followed regarding consultant fees and logistics.
3. Livingston requests that each Committee Chair assign a member to take minutes at committee meetings using the designated template, then submit them to the Chair for review and upload to the BOLT folder (or send to Judy Goleman for uploading)..

2. Comments from the Public (3-minute limit)



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1. None.

3. Secretary's Report

1. Minutes: Lohe makes a motion to approve the June 2025 minutes; Zelka seconds.

Vote: The Board votes unanimously to approve the minutes.

2. Correspondence

1. No correspondence received.

3. Other Items

1. None.

4. Treasurer's Report

1. Lohe presented the final FY25 financials, noting areas where we overspent or underspent the budget. The biggest overage was in "unanticipated expenses," which included the cost of the workplace consultant. That cost will be divided between FY25 and FY26 (with the larger share coming in FY25). The Board may be asked to revisit the FY26 budget depending on whether it chooses to hire other consultants (trustee development; director search).

1. Bloomenthal inquired about underspending in books and materials. Savin explained that processing fees were overestimated, which will be adjusted.

2. Livingston raised concerns about MBLC budget cuts and federal funding for databases. Discussion followed regarding attending MBLC conferences and potential impacts.



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3. Bloomenthal asked if PLB is at risk of losing state aid. Savin clarified that the library is projected to meet the Materials Expenditure requirement for state aid due to strong trust funds. The Board discussed Town contributions and the MAR (Municipal Appropriation Requirement). Livingston again encouraged the trustees to attend monthly MBLC meetings.

5. Library Director's Report

1. Highlights:

1. Power Outage: Brookline Village branch lost power June 26–29. Curbside pickup was offered on Saturday. Full power was restored late on June 29.
2. Pierce Construction: Planned closure on July 2 due to water being turned off; curbside pickup was provided.
3. Workplace Consultant: staff interviews and focus groups completed in June.
4. Town Awards: Ryan Brennan (Best Mentor), Ginger O'Day (Most Likely to Turn a Library Card into a Passport Adventure).
5. All-Staff Day: Scheduled for July 15. Morning: workplace consultants Amy Rebecca Gay and Loraine Della Porta. Afternoon: accomplishments, new hires, and department meetings.
6. Staffing Changes: Several part-time hires; Carrie Z. promoted to full-time after two years as PTLA and temp admin assistant.



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2. Statistical:

1. The recent power outage affected circulation numbers. The Putterham gate counter is malfunctioning, but the problem is being addressed.
2. Vanderkay asked whether side door entries at Putterham movie event were counted; Savin confirmed they are.
3. Further discussion followed about backup generators and climate control for collections.

3. Financial:

1. Lohe congratulated Savin for staying close to budget. Lohe questioned the high spending on office supplies. Savin explained the costs were related to a new carpet for the ground floor and advance payments for e-resources and periodicals.

6. Trustee Committee Reports

1. Vogt reported on the annual meeting and new trustee onboarding. The Trustee handbook was distributed. OML and COI certifications are being collected.
2. Next meeting: July 16 at 11 AM.
3. Vanderkay will join the committee in the fall; Silver will be mentored by Vanderkay.
4. Bloomenthal asked about the Trustee Development Committee folder. Goleman clarified that TDC reports are also added to the BOLT folder for broader access.

7. Advocacy Committee



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1. Margolis referred trustees to the Advocacy Committee minutes in the BOLT folder. The committee discussed a salary reclassification study for union members. Savin noted that negotiations are not yet open but may be in the fall. Discussion followed on AFSCME contracts and bargaining units.
2. Next meeting: July 17 at 5 PM.
8. Library Functions Committee
 1. No report.
9. Old Business
 1. None.
10. New Business
 1. Savin presented a mural proposal from Alex Cook, submitted by Aaron Norris from the Planning Department. Discussion included:
 1. The library's role as a community space
 2. Artistic message, values alignment, and public perception
 3. Whether the mural reflects the mission: *Discovery, Connection, Opportunity*
 4. The Board's authority to approve or decline the proposal
 5. A separate mural project being considered by library staff for FY26
 2. Margolis makes a motion to decline the opportunity to have a mural; Lohe seconds. Vote:
 - a) Yeas — Goleman, Lohe, Margolis, Silver, Vanderkay.



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- b) Nays — Bloomenthal, Vogt
- c) Abstained — Livingston, Zelkha
- d) Absent — Burstein, Chanyasulkit, Hung
- e) Motion passes by a majority vote (5-2).

11. Remarks for the Good of the Order

- 1. None.

Margolis makes a motion to adjourn the meeting; Zelkha seconds. The Board votes unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Cary Artavia
Executive Assistant to the Library Director

If you plan to make a motion or amend the minutes, please give a written copy to the Trustee Secretary.

Please contact Library Administration (brkadmin@minlib.net / 617-730-2360) with questions about this meeting.

Attested,

Judith Goleman, Secretary