

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, May 12, 2026 at 6:16pm

Present: P. Bignami; M. Burstein; C. Chanyasulkit; J. Goleman; K. Hung; C. Lohe; A. Newell; F. Silver; J. Vanderkay; M. Vogt; S. Zelkha

Absent: B. Bloomenthal

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

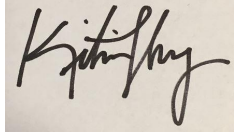
- I. Convene: Motion to convene by Burstein; Goleman seconds. All present vote yea, 6:16pm.
- II. Nominating Committee Report and Election of Officers: Burstein runs election for Chair then continues to run the election for each position. Burstein reviews the terms of the election.
 - A. Chair nominee: J. Goleman.
 1. Roll call vote. Goleman is elected as Chair, 6:23pm.
 - B. Vice Chair nominees: C. Chanyasulkit and F. Silver. Both candidates speak (2 minutes each).
 1. Roll call vote. Chanyasulkit wins majority. Chanyasulkit elected Vice Chair, 6:31pm.
 - C. Secretary nominee: K. Hung
 1. Roll call vote. Hung elected Secretary, 6:32pm.
 - D. Treasurer nominee: C. Lohe. Lohe speaks (2 minutes).
 1. Roll call vote. Lohe elected Treasurer, 6:34pm.
- III. Annual Motions: Burstein makes a motion to vote on all four motions as a group but proposes that the Executive Committee will discuss the meeting start time once Mercurio has spoken to the library staff. Chanyasulkit seconds. All present vote yea, 6:40pm.
 - A. Motion that the Board authorize, pursuant to Chapter 41 Section 56 and Chapter 78 Section 11 M.G.L., the Director and, in her absence, the Assistant Director, to approve all bills, drafts, orders and payrolls chargeable to the respective appropriations for which we have responsibility, except for any charges relating to the repair or renovation of a library facility, which is coordinated through the Building Commission. Such approval shall be given only after an examination to determine that such charges are correct, and that the goods, materials, or services charged for were ordered, and that such goods and materials were delivered, and that the services were actually rendered to or for the Town, as the case may be.
 - B. Motion to use trust funds to pay for Mass Library Trustee Association dues for those Trustees so wishing.
 - C. Motion to continue to meet the second Tuesday of the month at 6:15 p.m.
 1. Vogt proposes that the Board of Trustees meetings begin at a later time than the current time of 6:15pm.
 - D. Motion to authorize the Director to transfer funds between any and all accounts, thereby closing out the FY26 budget.

- IV. Comments from the Chair: Goleman thanks the Board for the honor of electing her as Chair. Goleman highlights that it is the job of the board to support the library director and strongly suggests that the Board should speak with one voice outwardly, while managing any differing points of view internally.
- V. Comments from the Public (3 minute limit): n/a
- VI. Secretary's Report
 - A. Minutes: Hung will add a link in the April 2026 meeting minutes to the minutes of the Special Meeting from April.
 - 1. Hung makes a motion to approve the April 2026 meeting minutes; Vanderkay seconds. The Board unanimously votes to approve the minutes, 6:47pm.
 - B. Correspondence: No correspondence. Request to update the FY26 minutes on the library's website; Artavia will update.
- VII. Treasurer's Report: Lohe summarizes the monthly report.
 - A. Other: Lohe reports that this year there are seven applicants for the Romanow grant. The Board will overspend on the grant this year in order to award grant money to all seven applicants because it is a testament to the library that so many staff are graduating from library school.
- VIII. Library Director's Report
 - A. Connecting us to our purpose: Mercurio asks the trustees to share why they wanted to be on the Board and what they love about the library. The trustees each share. Mercurio reminds the Board that this can be their elevator pitch when sharing they are on the Board. She wants to find more stories like these and share them through the newsletter and social media to build human interest and connection with the library.
 - B. Mercurio gives a summary of the April report which is followed by a short Q&A.
 - 1. Mercurio highlights the Library Foundation voted to fund a special project to fund a consultant to analyze space utilization and signage/wayfinding for our locations. The study will take place in July.
 - 2. Chanyasulkit highlights the ALA conference (June 25-29) in Chicago and encourages the board to consider attending individually.
 - 3. Goleman explains the back story to the new trustees about the recent repairs to the library building and thanks Mercurio for taking care of these.
 - 4. Mentions: Ginger O'Day is awarded a Community Partnership Award from the Brookline Council on Aging; and Percival Salazar is nominated for Paralibrarian of the Year from the MLA.
- IX. Trustee Committee Reports
 - A. Trustee Development Committee: Vogt reports the committee is onboarding new trustees Bignami and Newell and encourages all board members to complete their Open Meeting Law and COI forms.
- X. Old Business: n/a
- XI. New Business: n/a
- XII. Remarks for the Good of the Order: Goleman welcomes Bignami and Newell to the Board.
- XIII. Adjourn: Chanyasulkit makes a motion to adjourn; Zelkha seconds. The meeting is adjourned at 7:31pm.

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 by Kristin Hung, Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is cursive and appears to read "Kristin Hung".

Jun. 4, 2026