

Duluth Public Library Board Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2025

Call to Order

Present: Carlee Bladl, Bill Arezzo, Sarah Kessler, Sue Henke, Jose Gonzalez, Lizzy Luoma

Also in attendance: Carla Powers

Absent: Ellen Hatfield, Lori Steinbach, Michelle Foshay

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 PM by Bill Arezzo, President

Review and Approve Agenda

Motion by Gonzalez, seconded by Luoma, to approve the agenda as drafted. Passed unanimously.

Approve Minutes

Motion by Henke, seconded by Gonzalez, to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2025 meeting as amended. Passed unanimously

Reports

Library Manager's report

- Update given a project to shift collections at the Mount Royal Branch. The branch was closed on Friday, Nov. 21 to interfile the adult genre fiction collections with the rest of adult fiction. Staff came in on Friday and Saturday to do the work.
- There was an update on the teen craft fair that took place at the Depot on Nov. 15.
- YMCA passes will soon be available to check out at the library.
- The Winter Reading Program will begin on Saturday, Dec. 20.
- Jolabokaflof will take place on Dec. 20 at the Depot.
- Noon Year's Eve will be celebrated at the Main Library on Wednesday, Dec. 31.
- Staffing update: Library is in the process of hiring two Library Technicians and one Librarian I. A second Librarian I position was cut as part of the 2026 budget planning process.
- Reviewed library usage statistics. Overall, usage is trending well. Auto-renewal has likely boosted print circulation statistics.

Foundation report

- The Great North Star Read Together, Gourd Days, and the Books & Buzzers events all went incredibly well and were very well attended.

Friends of the Library report

- The Friends Board discussed creating a gift policy to cover any potential large monetary donations.
- The Friends received an email about book dealers accessing the annual book sale on member day. No action was taken at this time.
- The Friends Board is starting to develop a plan to transition the newsletter from print only to print and electronic delivery.

Old Business

Safety update

- The vestibule at Main will now remain closed until 10 AM every day.
- There has been an uptick in behavior events over the past two weeks.
- Some extra duty police shifts have gone unfilled over the past few weeks.

Main Library facility/regional library services district

- No updates.
- HUD grant proposal needs to be presented to the Mayor for approval. This has been on hold during recent transitions at the director level.

2026 budget

- Some restructuring of the Property, Parks and Library Department is expected.

Advocacy update

- Erin Kreeger will be reaching out to new City Councilors to share information about the library.

New Business

2026 meeting schedule options

- It was decided to continue meeting on the first Tuesday of the month for now.
- Meeting dates can be changed in the future if needed.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM