

Duluth Public Library Board Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2026

Agenda

Call to Order

Present: Bill Arezzo, Sue Henke, Lori Steinbach, Ellen Hatfield, Lizzy Luoma, Jose Gonzalez, Carlee Bladl, Sarah Kessler, Michelle Foshay

Also in attendance: Carla Powers, staff member Jessica McLamb-Manor, League of Women Voters observer Carolyn Baird

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by Bill Arezzo, President

Review & Approve Agenda

Motion by Gonzalez, seconded by Foshay, to approve agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes of December 2, 2025

Motion by Luoma, seconded by Foshay, to approve minutes. Motion passed with amendments.

Reports

Library Manager

- Winter Reading Program kickoff at the Jolabokaflod event and the Noon Year's Eve program went well and were well attended.
- DPL's website is compliant with the upcoming federal digital accessibility requirements. Current focus is to ensure that any documents linked to the website also are compliant.
- Updates were provided on new hires who will be starting in January and February.
- When reviewing usage stats, board discussed that lower programming numbers for the year were due to staff vacancies at the Main Library and West Duluth Branch. Fewer staff resulted in less programming being available.

Foundation

- Foundation Board approved the 2025 annual gift disbursement to the Library.
- Fundraising is continuing for the Downtown Children's Section project.

- New 3-year strategic plan was approved.

Friends

- No Friends report due to no meeting in December.

Guest Staff Member

- Jessica McLamb-Manor discussed her work in the Business Office at the Main Library. She also fills in at the branches, serves as one of two notaries in the library, and unpacks all of the new book shipments.

Old Business

Safety Update

- Frequent violations of the library's behavior policy are continuing.
- Meetings will take place soon with city administration and representatives from the police department to address continued safety issues.

Main Library facility/regional library services district

- Staff visited a facility up on the hill as a potential relocation of the Main Library. There are pros and cons to the location.
- Next steps are to work with a consultant to assess the feasibility of the space as well as space needs for a downtown branch.

2026 Budget

- Discussed Property, Parks & Library Department restructuring, which currently is on pause.

Advocacy Update

- Advocacy team will set up meetings with new council members to orient them to the library.

New Business

MLA e-book legislation

- Minnesota Library Association will be lobbying for legislation to help lower the cost of e-books and downloadable audiobooks for libraries

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned: 6:02 pm