

Duluth Public Library Board Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2026

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 Libby Spehar, League of Women Voters observer Carolyn Baird, Interim PPL Director Erik Birkeland, Library Foundation Executive Director Erin Kreeger

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 PM by Bill Arezzo, President

Review & Approve Agenda

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

Approval of minutes of December 2, 2025

Motion by Luoma, seconded by Steinbach, to approve minutes as drafted. Motion passed unanimously.

Public comment

A member of the public had questions about Duluth Public Library relocation and timeline.

Reports

Library Manager

- DPL added a Spanish language storytime in January. It will take place monthly and rotate among the three locations.
- Juvenile and Young Adult book on disc collections will be discontinued in February due to decreased use and the growth in streaming options such as Libby and Hoopla. Patrons can still request this format through interlibrary loan.
- Reviewed 2025 usage data. Strong numbers overall.

Foundation

- Board reviewed a draft MOU between the Foundation and the Friends. It was drafted by the Friends & Foundation working group.
- Fundraising is continuing for the Downtown Children's Section project.
- Four new members were nominated for election at the March meeting.

Friends

- The Friends reviewed the draft MOU between the Foundation and the Friends, which outlines the duties of each organization and areas where they can assist one another.

Guest Staff Member

- Libby Spehar talked about her work in communications for the Library, including: the website redesign, working on document remediation for accessibility, creating the events calendar, and more.

Old Business

Safety Update

- Meetings took place with city administration, police department and AFSCME to address continued safety issues. Recommendations were made for increased safety at Main. Progress is being made on the recommendations.

Main Library facility/regional library services district

- Consultant study is in progress and may wrap up in mid-February.
- Discussed potential options, public comment, HUD grant, and more.

Advocacy Update

- No update. Advocacy team is starting to meet with new city councilors.

New Business

Library Board and Officer Elections

- Discussed the upcoming Library Board vacancy due to Lizzy Luoma finishing her second term in March. Applications will open soon.
- Officer elections will take place at the March meeting.

Duluth Library Foundation 2025 Year in Review

- The Foundation raised over \$515,000 and saw an increase in donors.
- Erin Kreeger shared highlights from 2025 for programming, fundraising and advocacy work.
- Kreeger shared what is made possible because of the Foundation, and what is ahead for 2026.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned: 5:57 pm