

# **SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, January 14, 2026**

### *Minutes*

#### **ATTENDING**

TRUSTEES: Kate Van Sleet, Janaki Perera, April Kuehnhoff, Sarah Pascarella, Carla Lillvik, Mark Sternman, Anandavalli Thiagarajan, Ami Feldman, Mike Smith

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Karen Stevens

GUEST: Ben Wheeler, City Councilor At Large

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Van Sleet called the meeting of the Library Board of Trustees to order at 6:00 pm.

#### **MINUTES**

Anandavalli Thiagarajan motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Sarah Pascarella seconded and the minutes were unanimously adopted.

#### **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

1. The Director is out on medical leave.
2. The Director had a meeting with the Mayor's new Chief of Staff. The Mayor stopped by as well.
3. The Mayor is running a cabinet that will meet weekly. The library will be represented by the cultural and recreation cabinet member. There is a standard form that the library will use to raise issues to this representative every week.
4. NARCAN was administered at the West to a patron. Some issues with inappropriate patron behavior in the bathroom.
5. East will be open on Monday, Martin Luther King Day as a warming center from 9 am to 5 pm.
6. Four open library positions. The library no longer has any frozen vacancies.
7. West Branch had 150 people for a Somerville Stitch Club event.
8. The Central branch teen room will be getting new carpeting.
9. The library will be labeling at Somerville's Martin Luther King Jr. Day event.
10. West had active shooter training and there will be another training at the Central branch this month.
11. The data gathering is complete for the strategic plan and the library will be working with the consultant to write that information up.
12. The security guard at Central has been doing a good job engaging the teens and helping to de-escalate situations. The same person has been here consistently since the fall.

13. The library is looking for a mechanism to lock bathrooms from the outside shortly before closing to facilitate staff being able to close the library on schedule.
14. Gates were installed on the driveway of the West today.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

1. A developer in Union Square approached the President about a plan to build a mixed use residential-commercial space and potentially partnering with the library about a community space.
2. The Foundation will be listing its property at Parker Place for sale this spring.
3. The Friends has a fundraising event at Winter Hill Brewery on February 25th. The Spring book sale will be May 1-3.

### **COMMITTEES**

1. Nominating Committee - Anandavalli Thiagarajan and Ami Feldman formed a nominating committee for officers.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business and no objection, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Trustees will be held on February 11, 2026 at 6:00 pm. The open meeting will take place in the Director's Office at the Central Branch Library.

April Kuehnhoff, Secretary