

# **SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, February 11, 2026**

### *Minutes*

#### **ATTENDING**

TRUSTEES: Janaki Perera, April Kuehnhoff, Sarah Pascarella, Carla Lillvik, Mark Sternman, Anandavalli Thiagarajan, Mike Smith

ABSENT: Kate Van Sleet, Ami Feldman

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Karen Stevens

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Perera called the meeting of the Library Board of Trustees to order at 6:03 pm.

#### **MINUTES**

Sarah Pascarella motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Carla Lillvik seconded and the minutes were unanimously adopted.

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

1. The Director is out on medical leave.
2. Uptick of safety incidents at the West Branch. Library staff administered NARCAN to a patron at the West Branch. The Assistant Director raised these with the City. The librarians have also had trouble closing the West Branch because people are refusing to leave. The City has placed locks on the outside of the bathrooms at the West so that they can be locked before closing. The Assistant Director is considering asking for a security guard at the West Branch.
3. The library hired a new branch manager at the East, but the library still has 4 full time vacancies.
4. A rat entered the Central Branch library after a patron entered. The librarians called pest control and they put out traps.
5. City reached out to the library to discuss opening the Central Branch for additional early morning hours as a warming center in the morning. The City ended up extending the morning hours at the warming center at the Cummings School instead. The East Branch opened the Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a warming center.
6. The library is continuing to work on the draft of the strategic plan.
7. The gates that were installed on the driveway of the West last month are not in use yet.
8. Teen behavior at the Central Branch continues to be better.
9. The library has two high school student workers - one at Central and one at West.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

1. Mark Sternman attended the library legislative breakfast at the Cambridge Public Library.

2. The City, library, and the library trustees received a public record request related to the Drag Queen Story Hour.
3. The architect of a proposed Union Square development that wants to include a library on the first floor will attend the meeting in March.
4. The Library Foundation will change to a private foundation.
5. The Friends has a fundraising event at Winter Hill Brewery on February 25th from 5 pm to 8 pm. The Spring book sale will be May 1-3.

#### **COMMITTEES**

1. Communications Committee - Plan to release a newsletter before the end of the month.
2. Nominating Committee - Anandavalli Thiagarajan and Ami Feldman put forward a slate of candidates - Kate Van Sleet for President, Janaki Perera for Vice President, and April Kuehnhoff for Secretary.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business and no objection, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Trustees will be held on March 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