

# **SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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

*Minutes*

### **ATTENDING**

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

ABSENT: Janaki Perera

DIRECTOR: Cathy Piantigini

GUEST: Tim Talun, Cole Rosengren, Gorka Bravo

### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Van Sleet called the meeting of the Library Board of Trustees to order at 6:01 pm.

### **MINUTES**

Mark Sternman motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Carla Lillvik seconded and the minutes were unanimously adopted.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

1. The Director shared the Strategic Planning: Mission Statement, Values Statement, Customer Service Standards and the Final Draft of the SPL Standards of Library Behavior.
2. New carpeting installed in the Central Branch teen room. The second and third floors of Central Branch will get new carpet in April.
3. The new East Branch manager started. Interviews will start soon for the Central Branch youth services librarian. A circulation assistant position was just posted at the Central Branch. The Central Branch reference position will be posted internally soon. The Director is talking to human resources about posting a position at the West Branch.
4. The library website is being updated to comply with federal law.
5. Library staff will be attending three upcoming library professional conferences.
6. The Central Library will continue to employ a security guard. The West Branch would also like to have a full-time security guard.
7. The fiscal year 2027 budget season is just starting. The Director has been asked to prepare a level budget for next year. The Director discussed moving the social worker position to City funding after two years of using state library funding for this position. The Director will also discuss the possibility of paying the security guards with City funding after paying the current security guard with state library funding.
8. All of the libraries have had their active shooter training now.
9. The libraries are looking into getting walkie talkies.
10. The library safety committee is looking at models for safety manuals.

11. The library added “stop the bleed” kits to the emergency supplies in each library.
12. One teen slapped another teen at the Central Library. The Mayor was at the library and followed up with the school. The library will issue a suspension letter to the teen.
13. The Director will meet with the Mayor’s Chief of Staff about the proposed Culture and Community Cabinet position.
14. The Director met with the City to discuss the policy about libraries opening in inclement weather.
15. Locks on the West Branch bathrooms are helping the librarians close on time.

## **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

1. The Library Foundation has changed to a private foundation. They will remain a 501(c)(3), but they will have to spend \$100,000 by the end of June as part of their new designation as a private foundation. The Director will present spending options, and the Foundation will decide how to spend the money.
2. The Friends has a fundraising event with Shake Shack on March 24th, Angelina’s on March 22nd, and a book sale at Bow Market on March 21st. The Spring book sale will be May 1-3.

## **COMMITTEES**

1. Communications Committee - Sent out the newsletter at the end of February.
2. Nominating Committee - Anandavalli Thiagarajan and Ami Feldman put forward a slate of candidates for a vote - Kate Van Sleet for President, Janaki Perera for Vice President, and April Kuehnhoff for Secretary. The slate of candidates was unanimously adopted.

## **GUEST PRESENTATION**

1. Tim Talun and Gorka Bravo joined the meeting to talk about One Union Square property and proposed redevelopment of the property. There is a public hearing scheduled for April 16th before the City Council and Planning Board. They are seeking to rezone to a category that allows for residential as well as commercial. They are proposing a 6 story building with 180 units, predominantly 2 and 3 bedrooms. The proposal envisions first floor retail and 15% civic space like a branch library.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business and no objection, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Trustees will be held on April 8, 2026 at 6:00 pm. The open meeting will take place in the Director’s Office at the Central Branch Library.

April Kuehnhoff, Secretary