

Duluth Public Library Board Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2025

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

Also in attendance: Carla Powers, Jim Filby Williams, Tara Swenson, Betty Ramsland – former Library Board member, Carolyn Baird – League of Women Voters, Julia Luger – DPL, Carmella Hatch – DPL, Cameron Herrity – DPL, three citizens from The Pines

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM by Bill Arezzo, President
Recognized departing board member Betty Ramsland for her years of service

Review and approval of agenda

Motion by Foshay, seconded by Steinbach, to approve the agenda with the additions for public comment, Mount Royal staff update, and comments from Park Commissioner. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes of May 6, 2025

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

Public Comment

The three residents from The Pines who joined the meeting expressed their concerns about uptick in censorship issues at libraries across the US and asked if DPL has encountered book challenges. Mostly they wanted to express their support for the Library.

Reports

Library Manager

- **Summer hours** are now in effect with Saturdays being closed at all locations so Library staff can do outreach throughout the community.
- **Port Cards** will be available to students at Harbor City International School starting this Fall, which marks the first expansion of the Port Card program.
- **Gaming in the Teen Space** at Main will soon be available during open hours instead of only during specific programs.
- **Summer Reading** kicked off June 5th

Library Usage

- “Library of Things” is being very well used at all locations

Foundation

- The next major project the Foundation is focusing on is to update/transform the Children's Section at Main. They are in the early stages of planning.

Friends

- Friends of the Library held their annual meeting in May, and it was well attended. The Year in Review highlighted that the Friends' fundraising efforts led to the group donating \$35,000 to the Library in 2024-25.
- Annual Book Sale is happening in June.

Every Child Ready Duluth – Carmella Hatch & Cameron Herrity

- Hatch & Herrity highlighted the efforts of the Every Child Ready Duluth program that focuses on early childhood literacy.
- They visit schools throughout Duluth twice per year and their coalition with community partners is going well.
- They are launching a new program, "Ready, Set, Grow," in response to parents asking about having evening programs available in the community.

Mount Royal Staff Update – Julia Luger

- Luger talked about programs such as the adult book club, outreach to The Pines, adult programming in general, and Take & Makes that all happen at the Mount Royal Branch. Many of these programs are made possible because of donations from the Friends.

Old Business

Safety Update

- Staff did a walk-through of Main to assess where security cameras can be added.
- Requested Duluth PD to do extra patrols after hours.

Main Library/Regional Library Services Update

- Filby Williams gave a facilities update. Currently working on a draft of the study for a Regional Library and will be coming to the Board soon.
- Meeting with folks at City of Hermantown in June about the study.

Advocacy Update

- Henke updated the Board about current advocacy efforts, including coordinating folks to have a presence at City Council meetings.
- Foundation is working on adding resources on their website to help folks advocate on behalf of the Library.

New Business

Review Updated Photo Policy

- Motion by Foshay, seconded by Henke, to move forward with policy as amended.
Motion passed unanimously.

Statement of Commitment

Tabled until next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM