

Duluth Public Library Board Meeting Minutes September 2, 2025

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

Also in attendance: Carla Powers, Jim Filby Williams, Steph Myers – DPL, Carolyn Baird - LWV

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by Bill Arezzo, President

Approval of minutes of August 5, 2025

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

Reports

Library Manager

- West Duluth Branch Alcove project is nearing completion.
- Summer Reading Program has gone well, and participation is up in nearly all categories as compared to 2024.
- The library has organized several programs to help celebrate Duluth-Superior Pride Festival.
- Main Library is scheduled to resume Saturday hours starting September 6th.
- Filling vacancies in permanent staff roles has been put on pause until decisions have been made about the 2026 budget.

Foundation

- No report due to not having a meeting

Friends

- The board is working on building membership and to continue working to update the Friends' website.

Guest Staff Member – Steph Myers

- Steph shared about her work as the Adult Services Supervisor and work happening in the local history center.

Old Business

Safety Update

- Increase in folks using the Plaza outside of Library hours.
- No public WiFi 9pm-8am and no WiFi on Sundays already in place at the branches and will be in the coming months at Main.

Regional Library Update

- Duluth, Proctor, Hermantown, Rice Lake committed to study Regional Library.
- Final plans still need to be submitted to HUD.

2026 Budget

- Preliminary budget cuts haven't been communicated to departments.
- Plan for presenting full budget in early November.
- Changes happening in budget process as compared to previous years.

Advocacy Update

- Speakers have been at every City Council meeting since May and it has been going well.

New Business**2026 Fee Schedule**

- Reviewed proposed fee schedule for 2026. Only increase recommended was for Non Minnesota Resident Borrower's Card – 1st Family member – Annual (\$55 to \$60)
- Motion by Henke, seconded by Gonzalez, to approve the 2026 Fee Schedule. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned: 5:30pm