

Duluth Public Library Board Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2025

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

Also in attendance: Carla Powers, City Councilor Tara Swenson, Library staff member Lori Crocker, League of Women Voters observer Carolyn Baird

Absent: Sue Henke

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:33 pm by Bill Arezzo, President

Approval of minutes of September 2, 2025

Motion by Foshay, seconded by Steinbach, to approve minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Library Manager

- Update given on the vermicomposting project that has been happening for the past year.
- New Communication Board has been created to improve service for people with communication difficulties and comprehension challenges.
- Recent big events included an author visit by William Kent Krueger and the Great North Star Read Together that attracted large attendance.
- Reviewed usage stats. Overall, usage is trending well and measures are above where they were last year at the same time.

Foundation

- Working on the Friends/Foundation working group. Members will be chosen soon.
- Will be working on an update to the strategic plan.
- Gave update of current fundraising efforts (Books & Buzzers Bash, T-shirt sales)

Friends

- Completed an audit and website has been worked on.
- Making progress on the Friends/Foundation working group.
- Announced Littles Holiday Book Sale happening at Mount Royal branch in early December

Guest Staff Member

- Lori Crocker gave a tour of the physical updates that were recently completed to the alcove area at the West location.

Old Business

Safety Update

- Guest Wifi access points have been updated. They are turned off from 8 pm to 9 am at all DPL locations.

Regional Library Update

- No updates due to no recent meetings.
- HUD grant proposal needs to be presented to Mayor for approval. On hold while attention is focused on 2026 budget preparation.

2026 Budget

- Council budget retreat will take place October 31 with budget approval by the end of December.

New Business

Laptop Lending Policy

- Reviewed changes to the Library's Laptop Lending policy
- Motion by Gonzalez, seconded by Bladl, to approve with changes that had been discussed.
Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned: 5:30 pm