



**BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY MINUTES,
REGULAR MEETING
May 19, 2025**

Call to Order and Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order by President Danielle Rumble at 7:30 p.m.

Library Board present: Wendy Friedman, Melissa Mark, Frank Pisano, Karen Rock, Danielle Rumble, Jennifer Wheeler, and, via Zoom, Student Representative Marina Awad.

Absent and excused: None.

Library Staff present: Rebekah Craft, Director; Jaclyn Miller, Associate Director; Robert Stratton, Office Administrator.

Friends of the Library liaison present: Ryndee Carney.

Contract community representatives present: None.

Members of the public present: None.

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance following establishment of quorum.

Wheeler read aloud the Library's Mission Statement.

1. General Public Comment Period: None.
2. Consent Agenda:
 - Motion to approve the consent agenda.**
 - A. Approval of corrected March 17, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes**
 - B. Approval of April 21, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes**
 - C. Approval of April 2025 vendor payments in the amount of \$106,261.02, including payments in excess of \$75,000.**
 - D. Approval of total expenses in the amount of \$364,744.91**
 - 1st** Friedman
 - 2nd** Mark
 - A roll call vote was taken.
 - Yeas: Friedman, Mark, Pisano, Rock, Rumble, Wheeler.
 - Nays: None.
 - Absent and excused: None.
 - The motion was approved unanimously.
3. Board Reports and Special Announcements:

President's report: Rumble thanked everyone who came out to the Hometown Parade and Miller for bringing the book bike. She thanked the Friends of the Library for allowing her to speak and attend the annual meeting on May 13.

Board comments: Wheeler thanked Miller for bringing the book bike to the DPS event.

Staff Anniversaries: Mark recognized the following staff anniversaries: Melissa Behrens (6 years of service), Nadia Bertala (8 years), Sam Hollo (2 years), H Jennings (8 years), Jody Jennings (6 years), Emily Malek (4 years), Grace Noble (4 years), and Robbie Terman (7 years).

Upcoming events of interest: Miller reported upcoming events at the Library, full details of which are on pages 44-45 of the May Board packet.

4. Board Committee Reports

Finance Committee:

Pisano reported that the Finance Committee met on May 12. Present were Pisano, Rumble, Craft, and Miller. Full minutes from this meeting are on page 18 of the May Board packet. The next meeting of the Finance Committee will take place on Monday, June 9, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the Delos Board Room.

Building Committee:

Friedman reported that the Building Committee met on May 9. Present were Friedman, Pisano, Craft, and Miller. Full minutes from this meeting are on page 21 of the May Board packet. The next meeting of the Building Committee will take place on July 11, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in the Delos Board Room.

Outreach Committee:

Mark reported the Outreach Committee will meet next on June 4 at 11:00 a.m.

Strategic Planning Committee:

Rock reported that the Building Committee met on April 2 and May 12. Present were Rock, Rumble, Craft, Miller, and community member Jim Suhay. Full minutes from this meeting are on pages 22-23 of the May Board packet. The next meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee will take place on June 9, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in the Delos Board Room.

5. Library Report:

Craft and Miller presented highlights from the Library Report. Full details of the complete report are on pages 25-36 of the May Board packet.

The City is still working with the Engineering Department on repairing the loading dock.

The follow-up meeting with the Library and City attorneys concluded in agreement that the Baldwin Public Library was established as an independent PA 164 10a Library.

6. Liaisons

Friends: Ryndee Carney reported that the Friend's annual meeting was held on May 13. She thanked Rumble for speaking and Rock and Friedman for attending. The Friends elected officers, although they need to fill the position of Vice President. Paid memberships have surpassed 400, whereas at this time last year there were 250.

Beverly Hills: There was no report.

Bloomfield Hills: There was no report.

Bingham Farms: There was no report.

7. New & Miscellaneous Business:

Negotiations of the proposed Administrative Services contract from the City of Birmingham:

Craft reviewed details within the memo found on pages 40-42 of the April Board packet. Craft opened discussion by asking how independent the Board would like the Library to be from the City, and if she should proceed to obtain quotes for HR/payroll/financial services. The Board generally concluded that Craft should begin to research pricing for these services, after opening dialogue with City leaders about a possible transition. Craft emphasized prioritizing the community when reviewing the Library's options. If the Library pursued its own HR and payroll services, there would be a training period for some staff, and managing that process will need to be decided later on. Cost savings are likely if the Library pursued some of these services independently. Craft noted insurance is the most worrying aspect, as the current employee benefits are satisfactory.

Craft will begin dialogue with the City about independently requesting HR/payroll services quotes, before soliciting quotes.

Books & Bites 2025:

Pisano asked if Books & Bites will be held this year. Friedman responded that a decision regarding Books & Bites will be made this month. Several Board members worried it is too late in the year to plan and were concerned that the event did not have a concrete fundraising goal.

Resolution Amending Budget and Submitting Tax Rate Request:

This is a legal document to amend the Budget Resolution approved in March to indicate Baldwin's PA 164 10a status. All of this document text will be included in future annual budget resolutions.

Motion to approve the Resolution Amending Budget and Submitting Tax Rate Request, found on page 70 of the May Board packet.

1st Rumble

2nd Friedman

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Friedman, Mark, Pisano, Rock, Rumble, Wheeler.

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Unfinished Business: None.
9. Items Removed from Consent Agenda: None.
10. Information Only: See pages 71-114 of the April Board packet.
11. Closed Session: Closed session under Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss a confidential legal opinion.

Motion to move into closed session.

1st Wheeler

2nd Rock

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Friedman, Mark Pisano, Rock, Rumble, Wheeler.

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Closed session began at 8:33 p.m. and ended at 8:45 p.m.

Motion to end the closed session and reconvene the open meeting.

1st Friedman

2nd Mark

A voice vote was taken.

Yeas: Friedman, Mark, Pisano, Rock, Rumble, Wheeler.

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

12. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

1st Rock

2nd Wheeler

A voice vote was taken.

Yeas: Friedman, Mark, Pisano, Rock, Rumble, Wheeler.

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 16, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rotary & Donor Room.

Jennifer Wheeler, Secretary

Date