

**BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY MINUTES,  
REGULAR MEETING  
June 16, 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, and Danielle Rumble.

Absent and excused: Jennifer Wheeler.

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: Two.

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

Friedman 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 May 19, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes**
  - B. Approval of May 2025 vendor payments in the amount of \$117,759.87, including payments in excess of \$75,000.**
  - C. Approval of total expenses in the amount of \$480,917.19**

**1st** Friedman  
**2nd** Mark

A roll call vote was taken.  
Yeas: Friedman, Mark, Pisano, Rock, Rumble.  
Nays: None.  
Absent and excused: Wheeler.  
The motion was approved unanimously.
3. Board Reports and Special Announcements:

**President's report:** Rumble thanked Library staff for the school outreach conducted to promote the Summer Reading program and praised the work staff put into the Summer Reading Kickoff on July 13.

**Board comments:** Rock thanked Craft and Miller for putting resource information packets for the Quarton Lake Neighborhood Association.

**Staff Anniversaries:** Mark recognized the following staff anniversaries: Debra Gantz (22 years of service), Megan Gusho (2 years), Jennifer Halpern (2 years), Jennifer Hassell (4 years), Sebastian Hernandez (2 years), AJ Jawad (2 years), Daniel O'Brien (24 years), and Sheila Sweeting (4 years).

**Upcoming events of interest:** Miller reported upcoming events at the Library, full details of which are on pages 58-59 of the June Board packet.

4. Board Committee Reports

**Finance Committee:**

Pisano reported that the Finance Committee met on June 9. Present were Pisano, Rumble, Craft, and Miller. Full minutes from this meeting are on page 16 of the June Board packet. Instead of the Vanguard Midcap, the Birmingham Retirement Board chose the Fidelity Midcap account at their recent meeting. The next meeting of the Finance Committee will take place on Monday, July 14, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the Delos Board Room.

**Motion to approve the amendments to the FY 2024-2025 Budget found on pages 20-21 of the June Board packet.**

**1st** Pisano

**2nd** Friedman

A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: Wheeler.

The motion was approved unanimously.

**Building Committee:**

Friedman reported 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 that the Outreach Committee met on June 4. Present were Friedman, Mark, Craft, and Miller. Full minutes from this meeting are on page 26 of the June Board packet. Books & Bites will be postponed until 2026. The next meeting of the Outreach Committee will take place on July 23, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. in the Delos Board Room.

**Strategic Planning Committee:**

Rock reported that the Strategic Planning Committee met on June 9. Present were Rock, Rumble, Craft, and Miller. Full minutes from this meeting are on page 27 of the June Board packet. The next meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee will take place on July 21, 2025 at 1:00 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 37-45 of the June Board packet.

6. Liaisons

Friends: Ryndee Carney reported the Friends donated \$24,500 to fulfill the Library's wish list. Revenues are ahead of last year by \$9000, and memberships are ahead by \$3000. The Friends Bookshop revenue year-to-date is \$3,000 ahead of last year. The Friends are trying a new pricing strategy for materials: \$3 for hardcover, \$2 for kids hardcover, and \$1 for paperbacks/audio-visual. The Friends Board is still seeking to fill open positions.

Beverly Hills: There was no report.

Bloomfield Hills: There was no report.

Bingham Farms: There was no report.

7. New & Miscellaneous Business:

**Employee Compensation for FY 2025-2026:**

Craft reviewed details of the Employment Compensation FY 2025-26 memo found on pages 48-49 of the June Board packet, which provides explanation and recommendation for staff rate increases and updates to the pay and benefits schedule, effective July 1, 2025.

**Motion to approve the FY 2025-26 Baldwin Public Library Pay & Benefits schedule, and adopt a 3% pay increase for all staff members.**

**1st** Pisano

**2nd** Rock

A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: Wheeler.

The motion was approved unanimously.

**Kufiya Complaint:**

Pisano was contacted by a resident that was concerned a staff member was wearing a keffiyeh, a cultural scarf originating in West Asia. Craft requested and received a legal opinion from the Library attorney affirming the legal right of the individual to wear items of religious/cultural value.

8. Unfinished Business:

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

Craft reviewed details of the memorandum found on pages 54-56 of the June Board packet. Craft is concerned the City is adding additional obstacles to discourage the Library from proceeding with the level of autonomy derived from the Library's PA 164 Section 10a legal status. The Board wants to see the City Commission acknowledge this legal status in writing. Rumble will attend the next meeting with Craft, City representatives, and their respective lawyers. After discussion, the Board agreed there are too many unanswered questions right now to proceed, and that they require clarification on several items.

9. Items Removed from Consent Agenda: None.

10. Information Only: See pages 57-73 of the June Board packet.

11. Adjournment:

**Motion to adjourn the meeting.**

**1st** Mark

**2nd** Friedman

A voice vote was taken.

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

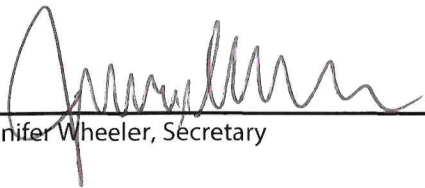
Nays: None.

Absent and excused: Wheeler.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 21, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rotary & Donor Room.

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 7/21/2025  
Jennifer Wheeler, Secretary Date