



**BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY MINUTES,
REGULAR MEETING
August 18, 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, Frank Pisano, Karen Rock, Danielle Rumble, Jennifer Wheeler, and Student Representative Marina Awad (via Zoom).

Absent and excused: Melissa Mark.

Library Staff present: Rebekah Craft, Director, and Robert Stratton, Office Administrator.

Friends of the Library liaison present: Ryndee Carney.

Contract community representatives present: None.

Members of the public present: 3 (2 in person, 1 via Zoom).

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

Wheeler read aloud the Library's Mission Statement.

1. General Public Comment Period: A member of the public made the Board aware of a bird strike injury that occurred in Birmingham, and distributed a flier for Bird Center of Michigan in Saline, MI, which rehabilitates injured birds.
2. Consent Agenda:
Motion to approve the consent agenda.
 - A. Approval of July 21, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes**
 - B. Approval of July 2025 vendor payments in the amount of \$116,261.65, including payments in excess of \$75,000.**
 - C. Approval of total expenses in the amount of \$313,178.11**

1st Friedman
2nd Rock

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

President's report: Rumble thanked Jen Hassell, Vicki Sower, and Haylie May for hosting the Adult Battle of the Books.

Board comments: Pisano provided condolences to the Stern Family after Fran Stern's passing. The Stern Family made a donation in honor of Mrs. Stern for the new Youth Terrace. Fran Stern was a librarian in West Bloomfield for 20 years, and worked at Baldwin for about 10 years after.

Staff Anniversaries: Wheeler recognized the following staff anniversaries: Sarah Dalmer (3 years of service), Paul Gillin (12 years), Mick Howey (8 years), Tony Lowe (20 years), Terry Meyer (13 years), Daniel Patton (8 years), Kristen Tait (24 years), and Peter VanGelderren (2 years).

Upcoming events of interest: Craft reported upcoming events at the Library, full details of which are on pages 38-39 of the August Board packet.

4. Board Committee Reports

Finance Committee:

Pisano reported that the Finance Committee met on August 8. Present were Pisano, Rumple, Craft, and Miller. Full minutes from this meeting are on page 14 of the August Board packet. The next meeting of the Finance Committee will take place on Friday, September 8, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the Delos Board Room.

Building Committee:

Friedman reported that the Building Committee met on August 8. Present were Friedman, Pisano, Craft, and Miller. Full minutes from this meeting are on page 17 of the August Board packet. The next meeting of the Finance Committee will take place on Friday, September 5, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in the Delos Board Room.

Rumple expressed disappointment in the number of products chosen and installed during Phases 2 and 3 that are failing and need repairs or replacements. Craft \$80,000 budgeted for building improvements and furniture for this fiscal year, so these repairs can be handled using the existing budget. However, this may mean leaving some items from the lower-level renovation to be stretched over two fiscal years.

Outreach Committee:

Friedman reported that the Outreach Committee met on July 23. Present were Friedman, Mark, Craft, and Miller. Full minutes from this meeting are on page 19 of the August Board packet. The 2026 CaRE Fair has been scheduled for Saturday, April 11, 2026. The next meeting of the Outreach Committee will take place on Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. in the Delos Board Room.

Strategic Planning Committee:

Rock reviewed the minutes from the Strategic Planning Committee meeting on July 21 and reported updates from the meeting in the afternoon of August 18. Present were Rock, Rumple, Craft, Miller, and community member Jim Suhay. Minor changes were made to the Strategic Plan draft shown on page 21 of the August Board packet. Staff will review the proposed Strategic Plan & Objectives: 2025-2028 and the plan will be presented at the September 15 Board meeting for approval.

5. Library Report:

Craft presented highlights from the Library Report. Full details of the complete report are on pages 23-31 of the August Board packet.

6. Liaisons

Friends: Ryndee Carney reported the Friends are hosting a special sale on the main level to commemorate the birthday of Martha Baldwin. At 11 months into the fiscal year, all Friends' revenue categories are above last years.

Beverly Hills: There was no report.

Bloomfield Hills: There was no report.

Bingham Farms: There was no report.

7. New & Miscellaneous Business:

Approval of 2026 Calendar:

Craft reviewed details of the Proposed 2026 Calendar memo found on pages 34-36 of the August Board packet.

Motion to approve the 2026 Library calendar as found on pages 35-36 of the August 2025 Board packet.

1st Wheeler

2nd Pisano

A voice vote was taken.

Yeas: Friedman, Pisano, Rock, Rumpel, Wheeler.

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: Mark.

The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Unfinished Business:

Administrative Services Contract Negotiations:

The Board held a discussion surrounding issues of the Administrative Services contract negotiations with the City. Craft distributed an unsigned but proposed 2009 Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Library's independence from the City. The Library and City have been operating according to this Memorandum, except when the City has set the Library's millage rate.

In preparation for negotiations, Craft solicited quotes for services (HR, payroll, employee benefits, insurance) in the event the Library gained full independence from the City. The City currently covers the full cost of employee health care and its spending is not capped due to municipal exemption of law PA 152. If the Library handled its own health insurance, its contribution spending would be capped at around \$280,000, meaning health benefits would be much more expensive for employees. There was discussion on possibly maintaining health insurance under the City plan and handling HR/payroll services independently, but this would not work in practice because of the need to maintain an employee/employer relationship to the City in order to access their healthcare plan.

Library attorney Anne Seurnyck joined the meeting via Zoom and answered some questions. The City is not required to take action on the Library's position until a contract is presented. Seurnyck is aware of no other libraries that have HR/payroll and health insurance benefits separated out, as what was suggested.

The Board consensus was reached that the Library will need to negotiate the proposed administrative services costs if it wants to preserve the current quality of health insurance benefits for employees without passing additional costs to employees.

When negotiations occur, Craft will be supported by Rumble and Seurnyck. Seurnyck will present all available options to Craft in preparation.

- 9. Items Removed from Consent Agenda: None.
- 10. Information Only: See pages 37-51 of the August Board packet.
- 11. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

1st Wheeler

2nd Rock

A voice vote was taken.

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

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: Mark.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 15, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rotary & Donor Room.


Jennifer Wheeler, Secretary

9/15/25
Date