



**BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY MINUTES,
REGULAR MEETING
November 17, 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, Pam Graham, Frank Pisano, Karen Rock, Danielle Rumble, Jennifer Wheeler, and Student Representative Marina Awad

Absent and excused: None.

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

Friends of the Library liaison present: None.

Contract community representatives present: None.

Members of the public present: 2 in person.

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 October 27, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes**
 - B. Approval of October 2025 vendor payments in the amount of \$145,032.34, including payments in excess of \$75,000.**
 - C. Approval of total expenses in the amount of \$562,369.97**

1st Rock
2nd Friedman

A roll call vote was taken.
Yeas: Friedman, Graham, Pisano, Rock, Rumble, Wheeler.
Nays: None.
Absent and excused: None.
The motion was approved unanimously.

Election of Officers:

Rumble called for nominations for the election of officers for 2025-2026.

Motion to elect Danielle Rumble as President:

A voice vote was taken after Rock nominated Rumble for President.

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

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion to elect Karen Rock as Vice President:

A voice vote was taken after Pisano nominated Rock for Vice President.

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

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion to elect Wendy Friedman as Secretary:

A voice vote was taken after Rumble nominated Friedman for Secretary.

Yeas: Friedman, Graham, 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 congratulated Rebekah Craft on receiving the MLA Public Librarian of the Year award and welcomed Pam Graham to the Library Board. Rumble thanked the Friends of the Library for hosting the book sale through the last weekend.

Board comments: Rock expressed appreciation for the Local Author Fair event.

Staff Anniversaries: Wheeler recognized the following staff anniversaries: Jen Adams (2 years of service), Lindsay Block (3 years), Josh Campeau (2 years), Lauren Clifford (6 years), Austin DeWalt (2 years), Susan Dion (20 years), Bart Gioia (18 years), Kanady Horn (3 years), Morgan Kosciuk (6 years), Becky Nelson (2 years), Cheyenne Nierhaus (6 years), Robert Stratton (6 years), and Michele Turner (3 years).

Upcoming events of interest: Miller reported upcoming events at the Library, full details of which are on pages 40-41 of the November Board packet.

4. Board Committee Reports

Finance Committee:

Pisano reported that the Finance Committee met on November 7. Present were Pisano, Rumble, Craft, and Miller. Full minutes from this meeting are on page 14 of the November Board packet. The next meeting of the Finance Committee will take place on Monday, December 8, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the Delos Board Room.

Pisano provided a general warning that the Library millage rate would be reaching the Headlee authorized maximum rate in the future years and that the Board should consider this when making decisions about rising expenditures.

The Library Board discussed potential purchases to be made with additional fund balance money this year. Craft recommended increasing the collections budget by \$120,000, adding soundproofing measures to the Atrium, adding window shades on the north end of the Youth Room, and installing a ventilation and exhaust system in the Idea Lab. Craft will return to the Board once multiple quotes have been received for soundproofing, shades, and ventilation.

Motion to expand collection budget by \$120,000 to a total of \$867,000 for the FY2025-2026 year.

- 1st** Pisano
- 2nd** Wheeler

A voice vote was taken.
Yeas: Friedman, Graham, Pisano, Rock, Rumble, Wheeler.
Nays: None.
Absent and excused: None.
The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Library Report:

Craft and Miller presented highlights from the Library Report. Full details of the complete report are on pages 17-30 of the November Board packet.

Miller reported the Friends hosted their Fall Sale over the past weekend. They netted \$3,900 during the sale. Sales Room Coordinator Nancy Burmeister found a third party to the remainder of excess books.

6. Liaisons

Friends: There was no report.

Beverly Hills: There was no report.

Bloomfield Hills: There was no report.

Bingham Farms: There was no report.

7. New & Miscellaneous Business: None.

8. Unfinished Business:

Discussion of proposed “City of Birmingham and Baldwin Public Library Cooperative Agreement”: Craft reviewed the memorandum found on pages 34-37 of the November Board packet. The next meeting of City and Library representatives will be held on December 4 at 2:00 p.m. City Manager Jana Eckert and Director Craft want to settle this agreement by the December 15 Library Board and City Commission meetings.

Craft requested Trustee feedback on the seven items listed on page 37 of the November Board packet.

1. Annual report: The Board is comfortable supplying the annual budget report, monthly financial reports, the statistical dashboard, and register of claims.
2. Length of agreement: The Board reached consensus on an agreement scope of 25 years.
3. Termination announcement: The Board reached consensus on a notice period of 6 months in the event either party wishes to terminate any portion of Exhibit A: Contracted Services.
4. Treasury and Assessment payment: Fees were calculated based on the percentage of Library millage capture. The Board reached consensus that this fee should be brought to a Board vote if increasing over a certain amount. It is accepted that the annual escalation percentage would be 3% or tied to the local inflation rate.
5. HR Services authorization: Switch to third-party HR services is wise and will increase Library autonomy.
6. 3% annual escalation: The Board suggested this should be tied to an inflation index, whether national or preferably local.
7. Special meeting: The Board will schedule a special meeting to review any further suggestions from the library’s attorney after the City and Library discussion on December 4.

9. Items Removed from Consent Agenda: None.
10. Information Only: See pages 39-60 of the November Board packet.
11. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

1st Friedman

2nd Pisano

A voice vote was taken.

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

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 15, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rotary & Donor Room.


Wendy Friedman, Secretary


Date