

Nashville Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes
March 18, 2025
Main Library Board Room
615 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37219
12:00 PM

Members Present: Joyce Searcy, Keith Simmons, Charvis Rand, Katy Varney, Kate Ezell, Dr. Nadine de la Rosa, and Rosalyn Carpenter

Library Staff: Terri Luke, Jena Schmid, Andrea Fanta, Linda Harrison, Susan Drye, Shawn Bakker, Anna Harutyunyan, Kyle Cook, Liz Atack, and Maria West

Others: Macy Amos and Tessa Ortiz-March, Metropolitan Attorneys at Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davison County

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

- a. Ms. Searcy called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM.

II. Metro Ordinance required to be announced at all Board Meetings – *Chair, Joyce Searcy*

- a. “Pursuant to the provisions of § 2.68.030 of the Metropolitan Code of Laws, please take notice that decisions of the Nashville Public Library Board may be appealed to the Chancery Court of Davidson County for review under a common law writ of certiorari. Any appeal must be filed within sixty days after entry of a final decision by the Board. Any person or other entity considering an appeal should consult with an attorney to ensure that time and procedural requirements are met.”

III. Public Comments

- a. “Pursuant to T. C. A. § 8-44-12, time is reserved at the beginning of Library Board meetings for which there is an actionable item on the agenda for public comment germane to items on the agenda. Up to five people will be allowed up to three minutes each to speak. Speakers must register within one half hour prior to the beginning of the meeting by signing their name on a physical sign-up sheet available at the entrance, and identifying any agenda item on which they intend to comment.

IV. Board Chair Comments, *Joyce Searcy*

- a. Ms. Searcy stated, “I wanted say thank you to everyone that came out to NPL Voices.”

V. Approval of Minutes: February 18, 2025

- a. Ms. Searcy motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Ezell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Library Director Report, *Terri Luke*

- a. Ms. Luke stated, “Metro Finance and Mayor O’Connell’s Office have recommended \$2.5 million for collections in the second 4% allocation. This is in addition to the \$2 million NPL received in December 2024. This would be a total of \$4.5 million for collections in FY25.
- b. Ms. Luke stated, “Tomorrow, Susan and I have the FY26 budget presentation to the Finance Department and the Mayor’s Office.”
- c. Ms. Luke stated, “On April 15th, you are invited to attend the first part of the Volunteer Appreciation Event. This is the first time since 2019 that we will have an in-person recognition.”
- d. Ms. Luke stated, “Mayor O’Connell has decided to have the State of Metro at the Main Library on May 1st at 10 AM in the Grand Reading Room.”
- e. Ms. Luke stated, “On Friday, Linda Harrison and Syreeta Butler are kicking off Bookmobile service at Rocketship United Academy Charter School.”
- f. Ms. Luke stated, “Artist evaluation for the courtyard has been underway.”

VII. Foundation Report, *Shawn Bakker*

- a. Ms. Baker stated, “This weekend is the Carnegie Society Book Club.”
- b. Ms. Baker stated, “Picnic with the Library tickets went on sale yesterday.”
- c. Ms. Baker stated, “We are kicking off our Thank- A- Thon which is a way to say thank you to Council Members. Last year, over 700 patrons wrote notes. Then, we distributed them to Council Members. You can also write a digital note if you prefer.”

VIII. New Business

- a. Vote on MOU with Lipscomb, *Anna Harutyunyan*
 - i. Ms. Harutyunyan gave an overview of the partnership:
 - ii. Purpose of the Partnership
 - 1. This MOU formalizes a collaborative research effort between Lipscomb University and NAZA, specifically aimed at evaluating and enhancing the Youth in Action (YIA) Initiative.

2. The partnership leverages academic research to strengthen NAZA's youth empowerment efforts, focusing on real-world challenges and opportunities.
 3. It provides a structured framework for impact evaluation and forward-looking strategy development.
- iii. Focus on Youth in Action (YIA)
1. Youth In Action is designed to empower young people by providing leadership opportunities, skill-building experiences, and community engagement.
 2. Through this collaboration, NAZA seeks to measure the effectiveness of YIA in achieving its goals and to develop a roadmap for sustainable growth and improvement.
 3. The project will explore how YIA influences youth development, including leadership skills, civic engagement, and long-term opportunities.
- iv. Key Research Objectives
1. Conduct a comprehensive impact evaluation of YIA, identifying strengths, gaps, and areas for improvement.
 2. Assess youth participation and engagement levels within the initiative.
 3. Explore how YIA aligns with broader youth development frameworks and best practices.
 4. Use research findings to map the way forward, ensuring that NAZA's approach is data-driven and evidence-based.
- v. Roles and Responsibilities
1. Lipscomb University (College of Education - COE):
 - a. Assigns a capstone research team to conduct the impact evaluation.
 - b. Uses qualitative and quantitative research methods to assess YIA's effectiveness.
 - c. Analyzes youth experiences, program structure, and outcomes to provide strategic recommendations.
 2. NAZA:
 - a. Provides access to youth participants, mentors, and program data for evaluation.
 - b. Defines key focus areas for the research to align with organizational goals.
 - c. Uses findings to inform strategic decisions, program refinement, and advocacy efforts.
- vi. Expected Impact and Outcomes

1. Clear understanding of YIA's effectiveness in shaping youth leadership and engagement.
 2. Identification of key success factors and areas needing improvement.
 3. Development of an impact measurement framework to guide future assessments.
 4. Strategic recommendations for scaling, enhancing, and sustaining YIA over the long term.
 5. Creation of a data-driven roadmap to strengthen NAZA's position as a leader in youth development.
- vii. Mapping the Way Forward
1. Research insights will help NAZA refine program strategies to better support youth.
 2. Findings will inform future funding opportunities and partnerships.
 3. The partnership will establish a model for continuous impact evaluation within NAZA.
- viii. Mr. Rand asked, "Are there any opportunities to team up with other organizations?"
- ix. Ms. Harutyunyan answered, "Yes, we currently work with NAZA-funded programs which is 10-12 nonprofits."
- x. Mr. Rand asked, "What happens after fall 2026?"
- xi. Ms. Harutyunyan answered, "NAZA needs more funding since the ILMS grant is over. Currently, we are having to downscale this project for this year. We are spending more time on research than implementation. The model pairs high schoolers to work with middle schoolers and they receive a stipend."
- xii. Ms. Searcy asked, "Is the research the property of NPL and Metro?"
- xiii. Ms. Harutyunyan answered, "It is the property of both."
- xiv. Ms. Searcy stated, "If this is approved, I would like a check in."
- xv. Ms. Harutyunyan stated, "I can give an update in a few months."
- xvi. Mr. Simmons asked, "So unless you get additional funding, you can't do anything with the program?"
- xvii. Ms. Harutyunyan, answered, "Yes, there is still an opportunity to do programming, but it would not include the high school portion."
- xviii. Mr. Simmons asked, "Are these just kids in the NAZA program?"
- xix. Ms. Harutyunyan, answered, "Yes."
- xx. Ms. Varney asked, "Does every child in NAZA not participate?"
- xxi. Ms. Harutyunyan answered, "No, it is not mandatory."
- xxii. Ms. Carpenter asked, "Is NPL co-branded?"

- xxiii. Ms. Harutyunyan answered, “Our communication and branding is a partnership between NPL and the Mayor’s Office of Schools and Non-Profits.”
- xxiv. Ms. Ezell asked, “How many children are involved?”
- xxv. Ms. Harutyunyan answered, “Last year, sixteen projects were implemented, and 300 youth were involved.”
- xxvi. Mr. Simmons motioned to approve. Mr. Rand seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Staff Reports

- a. Begin Bright Program Update, *Linda Harrison and Liz Attack*
 - i. Ms. Harrison stated, “My hope is that later we will do something similar with the steering committee. We brought in Bounce-Back, which is the company creating our digital platform. We also brought in Cynthia Osborne who is over the PN3(the research work) so I would like to schedule them to come in to talk directly to the NPL Board in late summer.”
 - ii. Ms. Attack stated, “We are working with Dr. Osborne and her team to design a rollout and collect data that can prove we are making the difference we hope we are and implement it to continue to create good results. Last month, Dr. Osborne and her team presented their final evaluation plan to us, which dictates how we are rolling out our Little Libraries, Digital Learning Platform, and Literacy Coaches.”
 - iii. Ms. Attack stated, “Where Dr. Osborne has landed is that we will have two research cohorts, plus a pilot implantation cohort. We will start recruiting for these pilot cohorts now. The pilot cohort implementation will launch by May.”
 - iv. Ms. Attack stated, “We are looking at 10-20 sites. The recruitment for our research cohort will be chosen by June. Our first research cohort of 11 sites will start in August. These sites will receive little libraries, app access, and curriculum kits.”
 - v. Ms. Attack stated, “Preliminary results from the first cohort will be available fall 2026 and results for the second by 2027. Dr. Osborne will have the full results by winter 2027/2028.”
 - vi. Mr. Rand asked, “How do you select the sites?”
 - vii. Ms. Attack answered,” Dr. Osborne looks at sites that are not too big and not too small. They are not considering MNPS or HeadStart as they already receive additional resources.”
 - viii. Ms. Attack stated, “There will be a study done of wrap around services.”

- ix. Ms. Varney stated, “Our initial goal was to raise \$20 million by Nov 2025. We started in February 2024, and we have raised \$20 million in ten months.”

- b. Updates on Capital Spending Plan Projects, *Susan Drye*

- i. Ms. Drye went over the capital spending projects:
 - 1. The NPL Courtyard is in process. The previously allocated \$5 million dollars in funding is still available.
 - 2. The HVAC repair is 95% complete.
 - 3. They replaced air handlers 1 and 2 at Main.
 - 4. The Main elevators have been upgraded and include ADA panels.
 - 5. \$1.5 million is set aside to replace the roof at Main.
 - 6. The heat exchanger is finished, and we now have a close looped system.
 - 7. The Popular Materials area at Main is included in the CPS. There will be a renovation of the first-floor lobby. This will be on hold until the courtyard is finished.
 - 8. Over 200 VAV boxed have being replaced.
 - 9. Money has been set aside for repairs at branches.
 - 10. Armorcore and bullet resistant materials are being installed throughout the system.
 - 11. The Old Donelson HVAC replacement is finished.
 - 12. East branch has had some of the windows replaced.
 - 13. Elevator upgrades are still in process.
 - 14. Green Hills has \$4.4 million for their renovation.
 - 15. Hermitage has \$4.3 million for their renovation.
 - 16. Pruitt’s roof replacement has not been finished due to the location of NES electric poles.
- ii. Ms. Drye stated, “We are in process of selecting an artist for the Courtyard, and we are now down to one or two artists. The next step is inviting the artists in and finalizing the design. We are hoping to start renovating during the summer. It will take 8-10 months to finish the project.”
- iii. Ms. Ezell asked, “Is the artist selection process the same as it was for new Donelson?”
- iv. Ms. Drye answered, “No, because we are not working with Metro Arts. We are working with GHP architects. We had over 70 applicants and GHP narrowed it down to ten. Then the committee met and selected the final two artists.”
- v. Ms. Drye spoke about the upcoming building projects:

1. Hadley Park has \$6.9 million to start the design process and initial construction phase. GSA is in the process of buying more property.
 2. General Services wants to start on the Richland Park design phase. We have \$1.6 million for this phase of the project.
 3. Old Donelson will be the new NECAT Studio. GSA secured Gresham Smith Architects to work on this project.
 4. Barge Architect is the contractor for Green Hills, and we are currently working on a design. Community input sessions will be scheduled in April or May. Renovations start in October or November, and we plan to re-open in June 2026.
 5. Once Green Hills is finished, we will procure an architect for the Hermitage renovation.
- vi. Ms. Searcy asked, "Are we funded by The Institute of Museum and Library Services?"
 - vii. Ms. Drye answered, "NPL has a \$46 million budget from Metro. NPL receives funding from the State of Tennessee for the Deaf of Hard of Hearing Grant, which is \$88,000. We also receive the Library Services Grant from the State of Tennessee and that is \$440,000. The only federal money is \$10,000 included with the materials for the disadvantaged. The NPL grant positions are privately funded. Total funding from all the sources is \$60 million, and 98% of funding is from the city."
 - viii. Ms. Searcy asked, "Is the \$10,000 in federal funding in danger?"
 - ix. Ms. Drye stated, "We are not sure. Metro Legal is currently looking into it."
 - x. Ms. Bakker stated, "Since 2019, we have received under \$1 million dollars from ILMS. Six hundred thousand of that was for NAZA."
 - xi. Ms. Carpenter asked, "Is there currently advocacy for this issue?"
 - xii. Ms. Bakker stated, "There is a meeting this afternoon about the messaging and the advocacy."
 - xiii. Ms. Ezell asked, "Has all the NPLF funding been local?"
 - xiv. Ms. Bakker answered, "Yes, it's all been local."
 - xv. Ms. Drye stated, "There will be a Safety and Security Summit here at Main on April 24th."

X. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Next Scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting

April 15, 2025

Main Library

615 Church Street

Nashville, TN 37219
12:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Mariya West