

Nashville Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes
April 15, 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, and Rosalyn Carpenter

Library Staff: Terri Luke, Jena Schmid, Linda Harrison, Susan Drye, Kyle Barber, Shawn Bakker, Anna Harutyunyan, Mark Crowder, Brandon Castro, Eric Lowy, Cameron McCasland, Larry Jirik, Bret Wilson, and Maria West

Others: Macy Amos, Metropolitan Attorney at Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davison County, Seannalyn Brandmeir, NECAT Board of Trustees Chair

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

- a. Ms. Searcy called the meeting to order at 12:00 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 thanked Mr. Simmons for attending the Bookmobile launch.
- b. Ms. Searcy stated, “Over 200 students, faculty, and staff from 40 Southeastern U.S. colleges and universities saw the library while attending the Gulf South Summit.”

V. Approval of Minutes: March 18, 2025

- a. Mr. Rand motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Varney seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Library Director Report, *Terri Luke*

- a. Ms. Luke thanked Nina NeSmith and the entire team for working hard on the Volunteer Appreciation event.
- b. Ms. Luke stated, “Tonight is the library Thank-A-Thon for Metro Council Members. Shawn Bakker will be there to present Councilman Gadd with her packet. A total of 3,800 thank you notes will be on the desks of Metro Council Members.”
- c. Ms. Luke thanked Linda Harrison and her team for the Bookmobile Kick-Off event.
- d. Ms. Luke stated, “Metro Council passed \$2.5M of the 4% allocation for collections.”
- e. Ms. Luke noted that the library will present their FY26 budget request to Metro Council on May 21st. at 4:30 PM.
- f. Ms. Luke thanked Mark Crowder, Susan Drye and Sherry Adams for their work on the Safety and Security Summit taking place on April 24th, 2025.
- g. Ms. Luke stated, “We enjoyed National Library Week last week. The Nashville Public Library Foundation provided lunch for staff at the Main Library and each branch received a gift basket.”
- h. Ms. Luke stated, “The Mayor’s State of Metro Address will take place on May 1st at 10:00am in the Grand Reading Room at Main.”

VII. Foundation Report, *Shawn Bakker*

- a. Ms. Bakker stated, “For the NPLF Strategic Plan, we appreciate the input from library leadership and understand what they see as the role of the foundation. We are in the process of collecting feedback and will share that with everyone in the upcoming months.”
- b. Ms. Bakker stated, “Library Giving Day was last week and NPLF met our goal and raised \$22,000 dollars.”

- c. Ms. Bakker stated, “NPLF had their Carnegie Society Book Club with over 120 people attending. Margaret Renkl and Ann Patchett were in conversation. This is a way donors can donate, and these funds can be used as unrestricted funds.”
- d. Ms. Bakker stated, “Thank-A-Thon will take place tonight.”
- e. Ms. Bakker reminded the group about several upcoming events:
 - i. On May 21st the library will present their FY26 budget to the council, and NPLF would like as many people to attend as possible.
 - ii. The Black Men in Leadership event will be May 7th at 9:00 AM.
 - iii. Picnic with the Library will be on April 27th from 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

VIII. New Business

- a. Vote on NAZA Partner Contract Extensions for FY26, *Anna Harutyunyan*
 - i. Ms. Harutyunyan stated, “We are offering an extension with partners we have worked with for years. Partners must meet the following criteria to qualify for an extension: they must be a funded partner for five or more years, present an annual audit, pass annual compliance checks, and meet performance indicators in the contract. All eleven organizations passed these criteria. I am here requesting approval of all eleven contract extensions. These organizations will serve 1,184 students after school and 538 students during the summer. In addition to this extension, we are allowing other organizations to apply and be eligible for NAZA funding.”
 - ii. Ms. Ezell asked, “Will they submit annually?”
 - iii. Ms. Harutyunyan answered, “Yes, but they must be approved every year.”
- b. Mr. Rand motioned to approve. Ms. Ezell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Staff Reports

- a. District-Wide Art Piece, *Linda Harrison and Bret Wilson*
 - i. Ms. Harrison unveiled the “I Am NPL and Why I Love NPL” project.
 - 1. Ms. Harrison stated, “This display will be at the Main Library and then travel to every regional branch throughout Nashville.”
- b. NECAT Update, *Larry Jirik and Cameron McCasland*
 - i. Mr. Jirik thanked the NPL Board for the opportunity to present an update on NECAT. Mr. Jirik welcomed and introduced Seannalyn Brandmeir, the NECAT Board Chair.
 - ii. The NECAT Mission Statement is as follows: “*Expose middle TN viewers to arts and education programming created both locally and around the world. Teach individuals and organizations who wish to make TV shows*”

how to do so, let them use our equipment and resources, and then broadcast those shows for them.”

- iii. Mr. Jirik stated, “NECAT has 570 active members, 3 active channels, and is available in 19 middle TN counties on Direct TV and U-verse. NECAT is available in 93,000 Davidson County homes.”
- iv. Mr. Jirik stated, “NECAT offers a Production 1 class monthly, Production 2 class bi-monthly, and quarterly classes that offer audio, editing, greenscreen training.”
- v. Mr. McCasland stated, “This year, 40 people have completed Production 1 class. NECAT had 96 public bookings that have totaled 339 hours of production with 830 individuals utilizing the studio.”
- vi. Mr. McCasland stated, “Since NECAT’s integration with NPL, there have been 278 people who completed Production 1 class, 898 public bookings totaling 3,954 hours of production, and 7,400 individuals that have utilized the studio. In that time, NECAT produced 238 episodes, 7 new first run shows, 628 hours of NPL content being broadcast, 56 new shows, and 1,956 new, first run episodes, and 130 NPL carousel bulletins.
- vii. Mr. McCasland shared NECAT shows that are in the works, including the Whimsical World of Wishing Chair, a series on Deaf Journeys, NECAT Now, NPL Means Business, Spooky Tennessee, Story Time, and Black Voices in Media.
- viii. Mr. McCasland stated, “NECAT was the first television station in the nation to broadcast Juneteenth Fireworks as well as the Juneteenth Poetry Jam.”
- ix. Mr. McCasland presented new shows at NECAT, which included the Talking Library 50th Anniversary Documentary, Branches: NPL in Your Neighborhood, MNPS Desktop, Story Time at NPL, Smashville TV, Wishing Chair Production specials, Nashville State Community College Concerts, Be Well Workouts, Pride Voices in Media, Juneteenth Poetry Jam, and We’re All Still Connected: The Sequel Show.
- x. Mr. McCasland noted that NECAT has several Community Partners, including the Nashville Zoo, Nashville Predators, Bell Garden, Nashville Film Festival, and SAG-AFTRA.
- xi. Mr. McCasland shared some of the current shows airing on NECAT, including Chinese New Year, Earth Talks, and the 54th Film Festival Awards.
- xii. Mr. Jirik stated, “Thank you to Susan Drye and Terri Luke for Live View. This allows us to go to any location with cameras and we can broadcast live to NECAT. This was used for the Chinese New Year and Bookmobile events.”

- xiii. Mr. Jirik stated, “We are working with Andrea Fanta and MarCom to get the word out about NECAT.”
- xiv. Mr. Jirik stated, “NECAT Lending Library will be our next project which will be a collection of 100 titles focused on the education of film and television. The collection will be available at NECAT studios.”
- xv. Mr. Jirik stated, “Terri and Metro Legal are working together to get a new lease at Nashville State for NECAT.”
- xvi. Mr. Jirik introduced NECAT staff including Samantha Burns, Cameron McCasland, and Eric Lowy.
- xvii. Mr. Rand asked, “Has there been any thought about the foundation (NPLF) working with NECAT and a talent agency to take these packages to them to create revenue?”
- xviii. Mr. McCasland answered, “Any of the patrons that come and produce at NECAT own the copyright so they can take it where they would like after they let NECAT air it.”
- xix. Mr. Rand asked, “How many in house packages do you have?”
- xx. Mr. McCasland answered, “Sixteen new shows that have been developed.”
- xxi. Mr. Rand asked, “Are you in the process of working with other departments at NPL?”
- xxii. Mr. McCasland answered, “Yes, we are in the process of integrating into LibCal.”
- xxiii. Mr. Rand asked, “Are you getting data of people who are watching NECAT content?”
- xxiv. Mr. Jirik, answered “No, unfortunately we do not, due to barriers with Comcast.”
- xxv. Mr. Rand asked, “Is NECAT partnering with any other institutions?”
- xxvi. Mr. McCasland stated, “Yes, we have partnered with Belmont University, Tennessee State University, the University of North Carolina at Asheville, and Vanderbilt University.”
- xxvii. Ms. Ezell asked, “When did NECAT become a part of NPL?”
- xxviii. Mr. McCasland answered, “NECAT integrated into NPL three years ago.”
- xxix. Mr. Simmons asked, “What is the age range for Production 1?”
- xxx. Mr. McCasland stated, “Right now, we have ages 16-93.”
- xxxi. Ms. Ezell asked, “Is there any correlation between Studio NPL and NECAT?”
- xxxii. Mr. McCasland answered, “Yes, we are currently having staff cross-training.”
- xxxiii. Ms. Ezell asked, “What is the budget?”
- xxxiv. Mr. McCasland answered, “\$100,000.”
- c. Safety and Security Update, *Mark Crowder*

- i. Mr. Crowder has been with NPL for 10 years.
- ii. Mr. Crowder introduced Brandon Castro, the new NPL Safety Inspector.
Mr. Castro presented on updates and goals for library safety.
 - 1. Why Library Safety Matters
 - a. Overseeing the library safety program.
 - b. Ensuring safe work practices.
 - c. Investigation and oversight.
 - d. Building a culture of safety.
 - e. Security support.
 - 2. Safety measures recently implemented include:
 - a. Enhanced security measures.
 - i. Badge access system.
 - ii. Bullet-resistant fiberglass panels.
 - iii. 3M security window film.
 - b. Comprehensive Training and Preparedness Initiatives.
 - i. Civilians' Response to Active Shooter Event Training with MNPd.
 - ii. Annual safety and security training.
 - iii. Emergency procedure plan.
 - iv. Narcan training.
 - 3. Safety Goals for NPL include:
 - a. Revamping emergency procedures for all branches.
 - b. Expanding lifesaving training and equipment.
 - c. Strengthening emergency preparedness with local agencies.
- iii. Ms. Varney asked, "How long does the AED last?"
- iv. Mr. Castro answered, "10 years."
- v. Ms. Drye thanked Mr. Crowder and Mr. Castro.

X. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm

Next Scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting

May 20, 2025

Main Library

615 Church Street

Nashville, TN 37219

12:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Mariya West

