

Nashville Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes
June 17, 2025
Pruitt Branch
117 Charles E. Davis Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37210
12:00 PM

Members Present: Joyce Searcy, Katy Varney, Kate Ezell, Charvis Rand, and Rosalyn Carpenter

Library Staff: Terri Luke, Jena Schmid, Andrea Fanta, Linda Harrison, Sherry Adams, Susan Drye, Shawn Bakker, Georgia Varble, Carla Tucker, Kathleen Feduccia, Dr. Raymond Kinzounza, Forrest Eagle, Hannah Gerst, Travis Humbert, Kris Cagle, Joan Brasher, Larry Jirik, and Emily Kriebel

Others: Macy Amos, Metropolitan Attorney at Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County; Gil Laureano, Metro ITS; Dennis Daniels, Tacit Architecture; Brendon Tierney, Channel 4; and Shauna Reynolds, Nashville Banner

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

- a. Joyce 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 did not have any comments at this time.

V. Approval of Minutes: May 20, 2025

- a. **Charvis Rand motioned to approve the minutes. Kate Ezell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- b. Ms. Ezell noted that the minutes were very good, and Mr. Rand congratulated the branches for their excellent work in the community.

VI. Library Director Report, *Terri Luke*

- a. Terri Luke explained that she did not include the library garage fire in her updates for this meeting as she and the administrative team are still waiting on information from the restoration company. The library will be closed until July 7th, and administration plans to send out another update soon.
 - i. Ms. Luke thanked NFD, NDOT, and Chief Swann for their swift response to the fire. She also thanked Mark Crowder, Calvin Thomas, Dan Padilla, and Mike (Binkley?) for stepping up and being on site to assist.
 - ii. The library team has worked to minimize delays to customer service. She thanked Susan Drye and her team for quickly finding a restoration company.
 - iii. As Ms. Luke and the administrative team continue to work through this situation, they will continue to prioritize the safety of staff and patrons.
- b. Emily Krieble is the new Administrative and Statistical Specialist. She was previously the Office Support Specialist for Branch Services. Ms. Luke is excited to have her in this role.
- c. NPL's Adult Literacy is one of 11 recipients of the Carnegie Corporation's "Libraries as Pillars of Education and Democracy" grant. Over 1,400 libraries applied to this grant, and over the next two years, NPL will receive \$450,000 in funding. Adult Literacy will partner with local organizations to bring more services to library branches. Ms. Luke congratulated Jamil Sameen and Marteja Bailey for their work on the grant.
 - i. The other recipients are Boston Public Library Fund, Gwinnett County Public Library, Harris County Public Library, Kansas City Public Library, Library Foundation of Los Angeles, Plainfield Public Library, Prince William Library Foundation, Library Foundation SD, San Jose Public Library Foundation, and Seattle Public Library Foundation.

- ii. More information can be found here: [Public Library Systems in 11 Communities Receive Grants Totaling \\$5 Million from Carnegie Corporation of New York : News | Carnegie Corporation of New York](#)
- d. The Donelson Branch has been shortlisted with two other libraries for the “Best Green Library/Grand-Scale Project” from the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. Ms. Luke thanked Kate Wingate for her work in submitting the Donelson Branch for this award.
 - i. More information can be found here: <https://www.ifla.org/news/ensulib-announces-the-10th-ifla-green-library-award-2025-shortlist/>
- e. Limitless Libraries had two special events in May. The first was hosting MNPS media specialists to a themed dinner. The second was the annual Battle of the Books. NPL welcomed 25 middle school teams, with West End Middle taking home first place. Ms. Luke thanked Syreeta Butler and Linda Harrison for their efforts to coordinate both events.
- f. Over 500 community members responded to the survey regarding the upcoming Green Hills renovation. Ms. Luke anticipates having more information on this project by the fall.
- g. Ms. Luke mentioned an incredible compliment from a Donelson patron.
- h. Mr. Rand asked if staff members will work remotely or be dispatched during closures, like the garage fire at Main or the upcoming Green Hills renovation. Ms. Luke explained that public service staff will be dispatched, while staff who are able to work from home will do so.
- i. Ms. Searcy thanked Ms. Luke for her communication during the fire. She applauded Ms. Luke’s commitment to staff safety. Ms. Luke extended the thanks to the entire administrative team, stating she was grateful to have an incredible team.

VII. Foundation Report, *Shawn Bakker*

- a. In May, Shawn Bakker and Claudia Schneck attended the International Library Fundraising Conference in San Diego. At this conference, the Carnegie Corporation held a meeting for the “Libraries as Pillars of Education and Democracy” grant winners, and Ms. Bakker was able to represent NPL.
- b. At the April 21st budget hearing, over 30 people were there to support the library. Ms. Bakker thanked the board for their involvement.
- c. NPLF is wrapping up their fiscal year and is on track to meet their target fundraising goal.

VIII. New Business

- a. Vote on Special Collections Updated Reproduction Request Form, *Kathleen Feduccia*
 - i. The current forms have not been updated since 2007, and Kathleen Feduccia explained that the team wanted to simplify the fee structure and remove items that are no longer in use. The forms have also been updated to accurately represent copywrite of the items, as there are items available for print, but the library does not own the copywrite of these items.
 - ii. The Image Duplication, and Publication Policies and Fees form updated the fee structure to include a flat rate.
 - iii. The Request for Reproduction of Images is used when a customer requests a copy for personal use or research, and it is now a \$15 charge.
 - iv. The Request for Permission to Publish Pictorial Materials is used when customers would like to use images in a single publication. This would now be a \$25 fee.
 - v. The Request for Worldwide Permission to Publish Pictorial Materials is used when customers would like to use images in multiple publications. This is now a \$100 fee.
 - vi. Mr. Rand asked if these requests were kept in a database. Ms. Feduccia confirmed that the Special Collections department keeps this information.
 - vii. Rosalyn Carpenter asked if there were any circumstances in which the flat rates would not be appropriate. Ms. Feduccia explained if there were specific and specialized requests that could not be fulfilled at the Main Library, then the department would send out the item and the customer would cover the cost of this service. However, most requests will be covered with these forms.
 - viii. Ms. Ezell asked if these fees would be enough to cover the cost. Ms. Feduccia stated that any money collected goes into the Metro General Fund. Special Collections does not want the cost to be prohibitive but rather uses the fee to focus requests and provide perimeters to customers.
 - ix. **Ms. Ezell motioned to approve the updated forms. Mr. Rand seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- b. Vote on Autism Tennessee Grant Contract, *Susan Drye*
 - i. During the Participatory Budget process for FY24, the library received funding to offer sexual education classes for autistic adults. The grant contract for Autism Tennessee states they will provide two six-week series. One of the series will be at the Hermitage Branch, according to the instructions of the Participatory Budget. Each class will be 90 minutes,

and the grant itself is \$50,000. These classes will be geared toward adults with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

- ii. Ms. Ezell asked if the library received other requests from the Participatory Budget. Ms. Drye listed the other requests, including adding more musical instruments to the Library of Things, offering music lessons, and improving the pollinator gardens at three locations.
- iii. **Katy Varney motions to approve the contract. Ms. Ezell seconded. Mr. Rand abstained from voting. The motion passed.**

c. Pruitt Library Program and Services, *Dr. Raymond Kinzounza*

- i. Ms. Luke stated that NPL is fortunate to have Dr. Raymond Kinzounza. He understands his community and works to ensure they have what they need.
- ii. Dr. Kinzounza explained that Pruitt is committed to meeting the needs of the community, especially the unspoken needs. Every other Tuesday, they have bingo, and the prizes are household goods provided by a local church. On Wednesdays, a church brings meals that can be microwaved. Over 1,100 meals are served during this time. The branch also gives out clothing, shoes, and other items on Wednesdays. Barber students come on Thursdays to give free haircuts.
- iii. There are other services and programs as well. Starting in July 2025, the branch will have a support group for cancer patients. Kimbrey Pendleton, Pruitt Circulation Assistant, is a certified notary which is helpful for patrons who do not have a bank. Dr. Kinzounza explained that while the approach might be unorthodox, people cannot read if they are hungry or if their basic needs are not met.
- iv. Mr. Rand asked if the branch collaborates with any workplace development programs. Dr. Kinzounza explained that they have brought in professionals to teach skills, and he has shifted to marketing these programs to parents to encourage kids to come.

IX. Old Business

a. Main Library Wedding Discussion, *Terri Luke*

- i. Ms. Luke thanked Mamee Evans, Office Support Specialist for Main, for assembling information about the cost of rental spaces. Georgia Varble and Carla Tucker from the Conference Center were also invited to give more context to the discussion.

- ii. Mr. Rand asked who collects the funds from these events. Ms. Drye explained that these fees go into a special revenue fund that helps provide upkeep for the Conference Center.
- iii. Ms. Varney noted that the comparison document shows NPL is undercharging for these services. However, we are unsure if we want to be in the wedding venue business. Ms. Varble noted that weddings provide good revenue but require more staff. The Main Library could be a wedding venue; however, it needs to be more thoroughly thought through.
- iv. The board discussed the merits of keeping the spaces affordable and the possibility of requesting brides work with specific vendors. Ms. Varney noted that while this is possible, if staff do not want to be in the wedding venue business, then they should not be in the wedding venue business. Ms. Carpenter added that there are two different discussions. The first is whether NPL wants to do weddings and the second is if NPL is capable of doing weddings.
- v. Ms. Searcy stated that NPL will pause on holding any weddings until a better plan with more structure and support is created.

b. Vote on Terri Luke's Vacation, *Joyce Searcy*

- i. Ms. Searcy stated that Ms. Luke's previous employer gave her six weeks of vacation, and she is currently given three weeks. She suggested raising the amount of vacation to four weeks for Ms. Luke.
- ii. **Mr. Rand motioned to approve four weeks of vacation for Ms. Luke. Ms. Carpenter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

X. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 1:25 PM.

Next Scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting

July 15, 2025

Southeast Branch Library

5260 Hickory Hollow Pkwy

#201

Antioch, TN 37013

12:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Emily Kriebel