

Nashville Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes
Southeast Branch Library
5260 Hickory Hollow Pkwy
#201
Antioch, TN 37013
12:00 PM

Members Present: Joyce Searcy, Katy Varney, Charvis Rand, Kate Ezell, and Keith Simmons

Library Staff: Terri Luke, Andrea Fanta, Susan Drye, Linda Harrison, Sherry Adams, Shawn Bakker, Mark Crowder, Jessica Piper, Bret Wilson, Forrest Eagle, Hannah Gerst, Kris Cagle, Joan Brasher, Larry Jirik, and Emily Kriebel

Others: Macy Amos and Tessa Ortiz-Marsh, Metropolitan Attorneys at Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davison County; Bob Zaiatz, OccuHealth; Jeremy Hettich, First On Site; Vickie Sparks; Vera Snelson; Maurice Sparks; Lisa Millraney; Nathan Eubank, Metro Nashville Network; Nic Martindale, News Channel 2; Amanda Roberts and Angie Dones, Channel 5; Brent Thompson, Channel 4; Cynthia Abrams, WPLN; Ann Leslie Owens, Metro Arts; Shawna Reynolds, Nashville Banner

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

- a. Joyce Searcy called the meeting to order at 12:04 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.”

- b. Vickie Sparks addressed the board about the Main Library Restoration. Her daughter had a wedding planned for October 4th, which was set before the discontinuation of weddings at the library. Ms. Sparks asked if there was any way to use the library lobby or Grand Reading Room to accommodate this wedding as it has been difficult to find another venue.
- c. Ms. Searcy thanked her for her comments and will brainstorm ideas to help.

IV. Board Chair Comments, *Joyce Searcy*

- a. Ms. Searcy thanked the library staff for their efforts during the closure. This event has affected everyone, and she acknowledged how difficult this is on all involved.

V. Approval of Minutes: June 17, 2025

- a. **Charvis Rand motioned to approve the minutes. Kate Ezell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

VI. Library Director Report, *Terri Luke*

- a. Ms. Luke wanted to provide updates on both the restoration process of the Main Library and remediation taking place at the Old Hickory Branch.
- b. Ms. Luke noted that the Main restoration efforts continue, and key Library services have been moved to continue operations. Delivery is now working from the Old Donelson location, and the collections team is at the Southeast Branch to receive new materials. Main staff have been relocated to branches to provide coverage.
- c. Administration has been working to provide updates to staff as soon as possible. Over 160 staff attended a virtual meeting with the restoration crew leaders to ask questions. The library intends to open on July 28th, but Ms. Luke stated this is a fluid process. Library administrators do not want to go into the building prematurely.
- d. The Old Hickory Branch was tested for mold spores. The company, Athena, collected samples from all over the library, both internal and external. Mold spore levels do not pose a threat to the overall air quality of the building. However, there were areas with visible mold. Professionals were contracted to clean and mitigate these spots. Going forward, Old Hickory will conduct an annual mold survey.
- e. Ms. Luke extended an invitation to the Board to attend the Cyber Senior graduation on Friday, July 18th at 11am at the Pruitt Branch Library.

- f. Summer Reading is well underway, and Nikki Glassley reports that the participation numbers are up from last year.
- g. Ms. Luke thanked First Onsite and Occuhealth for being willing to speak to the library's key stakeholders throughout this process.
- h. Mr. Rand highlighted the staff who were displaced due to the closure and thanked staff for their continued efforts.

VII. Foundation Report, *Shawn Bakker*

- a. Ms. Bakker explained that with the start of the new fiscal year, the Foundation has added new board members. New members include Lillian Blackshear, Paige Clancy, Rascoe Dean, Margaret Riley King, and Kate Satz. Casey Gymrek and Katarina Richter O'Rourke will be the new YLC Board interns.
- b. NPLF is looking for donor support for the Civil Rights Room. This space is usually covered, but one of the long-term funders has had to cease funding. NPLF is also asking for help with the Bookmobile and continuing to raise funds for Begin Bright.
- c. Ms. Bakker hopes the Gala will be at the Main Library again this year. Amor Towles is the honoree.

VIII. New Business

- a. Update on the Main Library Restoration, *Jeremy Hettich and Bob Zaiatz*
 - i. Mr. Hettich explained that a team of over 150 people has been working 24/7 to get the library cleaned. They have completed gross cleaning of the facility and have moved on to detailed cleaning. They are 90% completed.
 - ii. Keith Simmons asked about the difference between gross cleaning and detail cleaning. Mr. Hettich explained that gross cleaning removes the bulk of the debris, while detail cleaning focuses on the cracks and crevices.
 - iii. Katy Varney asked what library staff can expect when they return to their space. Mr. Hettich assured the group that the space would be clean, but items might be rearranged.
 - iv. Mr. Zaiatz noted that any setback to reopening at the end of July would be coordinating the removal and replacement of components. The library is clean, and the closure remains in place because of the physical safety hazard of being a construction zone.
 - v. Mr. Rand asked about the verification process. Mr. Zaiatz explained the process begins with physical and visual verification. They also collect

samples along the way. Before the library reopens, a final sample will be collected.

- vi. Ms. Searcy asked if either company was involved in the parking garage. Mr. Hettich noted that their contract includes the library's part of the garage, but the majority is out of their scope of work. Ms. Luke added that she has been working closely with NDOT, and NPL will be at the table for any discussions about the parking garage. However, the investigation is still ongoing.
- vii. Mr. Zaiatz spoke about the collections and what needed to be removed or cleaned. Only items in the Conference Center were heavily impacted. The majority of collections were lightly impacted and have since been cleaned. Valuable content is being inspected by a second team of experts. Ms. Varney asked about the art in the Conference Center. Mr. Zaiatz is waiting to hear back.
- viii. Ms. Searcy asked about parking for employees. Susan Drye explained that with the new stadium, parking options are limited. Employees who currently pay to park will be relocated to another garage. Mr. Simmons noted that customer parking will be an issue and was concerned about losing customers. Andrea Fanta reported that surrounding branches have seen a spike in attendance and usage. Programs like Studio NPL have already been sent into the community to provide outreach.
- ix. Ms. Luke thanked Ms. Drye and her team for their updates on the HVAC system. Ms. Searcy thanked Chief Swann and the Nashville Fire Department for their swift action.

b. Vote on Updated Art Lending Library MOU between Metro Arts and Nashville Public Library, *Anne Leslie Owens, Jessica Piper*

- i. Ms. Luke thanked Metro Arts for being an incredible partner with the Art Lending Library.
- ii. Ms. Owens thanked the library for their involvement. The Art Lending Library began in 2021 at the Madison and Southeast branches and 60 pieces of art. This has since expanded to include several other branches and 53 additional artworks. The collection is customizable and depending on the size of the location, the number of art pieces can be changed. Ms. Piper noted that the collection is very popular. 100% of the collection has been checked out this past year.
- iii. Ms. Varney asked if any pieces had been damaged. Ms. Piper stated that there has been some wear and tear on the cases, but no art has been damaged.

iv. **Ms. Ezell motioned to approve the MOU. Ms. Varney seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

c. SEIU Report, *Kyle Cook*

i. Mr. Cook explained that as Lead Steward for the Union, he wanted to report staff experience with the closure. Staff were relieved to hear from Mr. Zaiatz and the restoration crew about the clean-up. Staff are frustrated by the lack of day-to-day consistency with scheduling. However, a new scheduling format is in place and will hopefully lead to more stability. Ms. Searcy thanked Mr. Cook and the employees for adjusting and for their hard work.

d. What is a Budget: Video Preview, *Linda Harrison and Bret Wilson*

- i. Ms. Harrison explained that Metro Finance approached Wishing Chair to create an informational video about the budget process. Mr. Wilson noted that many people were involved in the creation of the video, from lyrics to music to footage.
- ii. Mr. Wilson also stated that the Steve and Judy Turner marionettes were part of String City this year.
- iii. After watching the video, Ms. Searcy congratulated the group on a job well done!

IX. Adjournment

a. Meeting adjourned at 1:24 PM.

Next Scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting

September 16, 2025

Inglewood Branch Library

4312 Gallatin Pike

Nashville, TN 37216

12:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Emily Kriebel