Nashville Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes
September 16, 2025
Inglewood Branch Library
Meeting Room
4312 Gallatin Pike
Nashville, TN 37216
12:00 PM

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

Library Staff: Terri Luke, Jena Schmid, Andrea Fanta, Kyle Barber, Shawn Bakker, Chantel Clark, Susan Drye, Larry Jirik, Forrest Eagle, Hannah Gerst, Kris Cagle, Travis Humbert, Joan Brasher, Kyle Cook, Marteja Bailey, Rachael Krohn, Anna Harutanyan, and Emily Krieble

Others: Macy Amos and Kelli Woodward, Metropolitan Attorneys at Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davison County; Gil Laureano, Elden Wixom, Metro ITS; James Morrison, Mortenson Company

I. Call to Order / Roll Call
   a. Joyce Searcy called the meeting to order at 12:01 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. She welcomed everyone back from the hiatus.

V. Approval of Minutes: July 15, 2025

a. Katy Varney motioned to approve the minutes. Charvis Rand seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Library Director Report, *Terri Luke*

a. Terri Luke introduced Chantel Clark, the new Assistant Director for the Main Library. Ms. Clark began her career in libraries in Nashville at Fisk University. She interned at NPL during graduate school and went on to work for the Las Vegas and Milwaukee library systems. Ms. Clark stated she is glad to be back in Nashville.

b. Emily Krieble is working to schedule interviews for the Assistant Director of Innovation, Collections, Shared Systems, and Technology. John Griffey, Interim Director of Metro ITS, and Will Ingram, Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer at Belmont University, will be on the interview panel, and Sherry Adams will serve as proctor.

c. Ms. Luke gave an update on the Main Library restoration, stating that during the cleaning process, First OnSite discovered an issue with the fire safety system that needs to be fixed. She thanked staff for stepping up during this difficult time.

i. Ms. Varney asked if the issue with the fire safety system was only in the Conference Center. Ms. Luke explained that this issue was there when the building was built, and it is in the Conference Center. Now that it has been discovered, it needs to be addressed.

ii. Keith Simmons asked about the state of the parking garage. Ms. Luke reminded the group that the parking garage is owned by NDOT, not the library. They have called in a third structural engineer that specializes in parking garages to assess the situation. Ms. Luke hopes to have an update from NDOT next month once the report is complete.

iii. Mr. Rand noted that the statistical data shows the community is adjusting to the situation. He thanked the staff for their hard work to continue providing services.

d. Limitless Libraries will be set up temporarily at the Edmondson Pike Branch so they can resume services.

e. Ms. Luke had two meetings with Mayor O'Connell. One meeting was to discuss NPL's key strategies for FY26. She has been working with Clifton Peay in the Mayor's Office, and they understand this year will be difficult with the Main Library closure. The second meeting is a newly established quarterly meeting. Ms. Luke sets the agenda for these meetings, and she discussed collections at this initial meeting.

f. NPL is starting a recycling pilot. The library is working with the Mayor's Office, General Services, and Waste Services to assess the pilot. The sites chosen are Edmondson Pike, Hermitage, North, and Madison.

g. Ms. Luke and Susan Drye will present the Capital Spending Plan to the Mayor's Office later this month. The primary requests will be to obtain building funds for Richland Park and Hadley Park. The library is working with General Service to find a new location for the Hadley Park branch.

    i. Mr. Rand asked if the Parks Department would be able to help with providing space at the current Hadley Park location. Ms. Luke explained that while the Parks Department was willing to work with the library to help with space, it would not be enough without purchasing the structures next to the current library.

    ii. Mr. Simmons asked if Richland Park would be a two-story building. Ms. Luke confirmed it would be since the new structure will need to stay within the current building's footprint.

h. NPL will also have several 4% fund requests. Last year, we received funding for collections, but not routine maintenance. Ms. Luke will also request funding for the furniture, fixtures, and equipment for the Green Hills renovation, as well as funding for a server replacement.

i. On August 27th, Ms. Luke conducted two department-wide Webex meetings to discuss the Continuous Improvement Plan with staff. She hopes to work with Vanderbilt University to create and distribute a customer service survey as part of this initiative.

    i. Ms. Searcy asked if items from the CIP would be included in staff evaluations. Ms. Luke explained that there will be some items on evaluations, like staff meeting expectations.

j. Ms. Luke attended the Mayor's Service Awards this month. Three library staff members were honored at this event: Information Systems Application Technician

Robert Wilson and Building Maintenance Supervisor Calvin Thomas were recognized for 30 years of service and North Branch Circulation Assistant Angia Jones was recognized for 40 years of service.

    i. Ms. Varney stated she would like to officially honor these three employees at the next board meeting.

k. Donelson Branch Library received the Governor's Environmental Service Award. Ms. Luke attended the ceremony this month.

l. Ms. Luke thanked Hermitage Branch Manager Emily Talbot and the entire team at Hermitage for planning a wonderful 25th anniversary celebration. Several Councilmembers were in attendance.

m. The Board discussed the lower statistics for wireless usage, Limitless Libraries, and programming. Much of the change was attributed to the Main closure, as well as a difference in how the wireless statistics were reported in FY25.

VII. Foundation Report, *Shawn Bakker*

a. Shawn Bakker invited the Board to attend the NPLF's annual Board meeting on September 23rd at Donelson.

b. Begin Bright has shifted from large events to house parties to bring in donations this fiscal year. Once the program is fully operational, the Foundation will look at funding opportunities outside of Nashville.

c. NPLF has purchased a new Puppet Truck to replace one of the current trucks. It will be ready in a few weeks, and NPLF hopes to replace the other truck soon.

d. The Saturday night event for Gala will take place at Montgomery Bell Academy. Because the space is large, Ms. Bakker hopes to expand the number of guests. She thanked MBA for their generosity and willingness to help on such short notice.

VIII. New Business

a. Vote on NAZA Contract Amendment, Why We Can't Wait, *Anna Harutyunyan*

    i. Anna Harutyunyan explained that this program was previously funded as a pilot program. NAZA would like to use Metro funding to continue this program. Why We Can't Wait works with incarcerated young people to help them find jobs and continue their education.

        1. **Kate Ezell motioned to approve the contract amendment. Ms. Varney seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

b. Vote on NAZA Contract, Black Lemonade, *Anna Harutyunyan*

    i. Ms. Harutyunyan stated that Black Lemonade is a returning partner. They will offer after-school programming in four schools.

    ii. **Ms. Varney motioned to approve the contract. Mr. Rand seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

c. Vote on ESL contracts, *Susan Drye*
    i. Ms. Drye introduced Marteja Bailey, the Grants Coordinator for NPL. Ms. Bailey explained that in order to begin ESL classes for the Carnegie grant we received, two contracts would need to be approved. The organizations are the Branch of Nashville and NICE.
        1. Mr. Rand asked if NPL has the resources and services available to complete this grant. Ms. Drye confirmed that we do.
        2. Mr. Simmons asked if NPL had previously worked with these organizations. Ms. Bailey stated that Adult Literacy regularly works with these organizations, but we have never had a formal contract.
    ii. **Mr. Rand motioned to approve the NICE contract. Rosalyn Carpenter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
    iii. **Ms. Ezell motioned to approve the Branch of Nashville contract. Ms. Carpenter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

d. Vote on Oasis contract, *Susan Drye*
    i. Ms. Drye explained that the Oasis grants are direct fund grants. The Mayor Youth Grant has been in place since Mayor Dean.
    ii. **Mr. Simmons motioned to approve the Mayor Youth Grant. Ms. Ezell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
    iii. **Mr. Rand motioned to approve the Oasis College Connection Grant. Ms. Varney seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

e. Vote on Terri Luke’s 2% Open Range Increase, *Susan Drye*
    i. Ms. Drye stated that the Director receives the same increase that all staff receive, but anything over that amount requires Board approval.
    ii. **Mr. Simmons motioned to approve the increase. Ms. Ezell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

IX. Staff Report

a. Library Card Sign Up Month, *Andrea Fanta*
    i. Andrea Fanta unveiled the Stream Smarter campaign for this year’s Library Card Sign-Up month. She explained that MarCom’s robust email marketing system works to market both city-wide and hyper locally. Success for this campaign will look like roughly 4,000 new cards. She plans to have Council and the Mayor’s Office share their cards on social media.
        1. Ms. Searcy asked about marketing to colleges. Ms. Fanta stated that she works with Belmont University and Hadley Park Branch Manager Landon Earps works with Tennessee State University.

MS. Searcy suggested partnering with WeGo at college orientations to generate more library card sign-ups.

b. Inglewood Branch Library Report, *Suzanne Robinson*

i. Suzanne Robinson welcomed the Board to Inglewood. She noted that tomorrow marks 56 years of service to the community. The branch has many popular programs, including storytimes with Library Associate Andrew Thompson. Mr. Thompson offers three story times each week, averaging 30 attendees per program. Inglewood also offers a range of other programs, including book clubs, crafts, and yoga. Inglewood also has a strong partnership with the Inglewood Neighborhood Association. They donate to the library on a yearly basis.

X. Adjournment

a. Meeting adjourned at 1:32 PM.

Next Scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting
October 21, 2025
Hermitage Branch Library
Meeting Room
3700 James Kay Lane
Hermitage, TN 37076
12:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Emily Krieble