

Nashville Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes
January 20, 2026
Bellevue Branch Library
12:00 PM

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

Library Staff: Terri Luke, Linda Harrison, Susan Drye, Jena Schmid, Andrea Fanta, Chantel Clark, Annie Herlocker, Anna Harutyunyan, Jahan Mahdi, Hannah Gerst, Kris Cagle, Travis Humbert, Cameron McCasland, Eric Lowey, Joan Brasher, Mark Crowder, Sade Johnson, and Emily Kriebble

Others: Shawn Bakker, President of NPLF; Macy Amos and Kelli Woodward, Metropolitan Attorneys at Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County; Amanda Cardenas

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.”

IV. Board Chair Comments, *Joyce Searcy*

- a. Ms. Searcy wished everyone a happy New Year. She did not have anything to report but did mention that the Civil Rights Room received a shoutout during the recent Vanderbilt basketball game.

V. Approval of Minutes: December 9, 2025

- a. **Kate Ezell motioned to approve the minutes. Rosalyn Carpenter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
 - i. Charvis Rand thanked staff for their continued efforts and asked about the library's open positions. Susan Drye explained that all library positions are posted through Metro and Library HR works with different organizations to help promote and find applicants. Terri Luke also mentioned that several positions are open due to the Main closure.
 - ii. Ms. Searcy pointed out a column of error calculations in the statistical summary on page 12. Emily Kriebel explained that due to a software error last November, none of the public computer use was reported. The column shows an error because it is trying to find the rate of change from zero.

VI. Library Director Report, *Terri Luke*

- a. Metro has been working to migrate to Oracle Cloud. Ms. Luke thanked Sherry Adams and the entire library HR team for their work during this transition. They have been working long hours to ensure all staff are paid correctly and on time.
- b. Ms. Luke congratulated and introduced Annie Herlocker, the new Assistant Director for Innovation, Collections, Shared Systems, and Technology. Ms. Herlocker gave a brief history of her previous work and her time here at Nashville Public Library. She is ecstatic to begin this new role.
- c. The Main Library remains closed while the restoration crew continues to work on restoring the fire safety systems. Everyone is eager to reopen as soon as possible. Staff have continued to keep vital services up and running during this closure.
 - i. Ms. Carpenter asked about how NPL is keeping patrons informed. Andrea Fanta explained that patrons receive emails, social media updates, and messaging from local news stations, as well as information from our website.
 - ii. Ms. Ezell asked how to explain the closure to community members who ask for information from board members. Ms. Luke explained that the reopening date is out of our control. NPL is waiting for the restoration company to complete their work and to receive clearance from the fire marshal.
 - iii. The board discussed the situation and frustrations about the timeline. Ms. Drye reiterated that when the conference center walls were opened for

cleaning, they discovered an unforeseen issue with the fireproofing that needed to be fixed before the library can regain occupancy.

- d. The Green Hills Branch Library is now closed for renovation. While it is not ideal to have both Green Hills and Main closed, the renovation process was too far along to stop. If the process was put on hold, it would make the renovation more expensive over time.
- e. Ms. Luke congratulated NAZA on 15 years of service! The celebration was held at the Adventure Science Center on December 17th and there was a great turnout.
- f. NECAT has been nominated for two local Emmy Awards for their work on the Wishing Chair production of Goldilocks. They are in the running for Best Audio Recording, Mixing and Design and Best Musical Composition/Arrangement. Cameron McCasland noted that this production was a great collaboration. The awards will be on February 14th.

VII. Foundation Report, *Shawn Bakker*

- a. Shawn Bakker invited the board to the upcoming Picnic with the Library on April 26th. Currently, the Picnic will still take place at the Main Library; however, the Foundation is beginning to look at alternatives in case the library is still closed.
- b. There are two upcoming events for the Carnegie Society in January and February. Ms. Bakker asked the board to invite anyone interested in supporting the library to attend these sessions to learn about the Carnegie Society. She was also excited to share that our Carnegie Society Book Club will be held on Sunday, March 29 at Harpeth Hall. We are reading *James* by Percival Everett. Margaret Riley King stated that we are working on securing a speaker/speakers for the evening.
- c. Ms. Bakker will send the board information about their ambassador group. Each branch has ambassadors and NPLF will be scheduling gatherings at each location to learn more about branch initiatives.

VIII. New Business

- a. Vote on Five NAZA Contract Amendments to Add Funds for Summer Camps for MDHA Public Housing Young Residents, *Anna Harutyunyan*
 - i. Anna Harutyunyan requested approval for five contract amendments to allow for more summer funding at these locations. All five locations are current NAZA sites who have already passed their audits.
 - ii. Ms. Harutyunyan asked for the following allocation: \$32,000 for AAOC Camps for Youth Development, \$112,000 for Aspiring Youth Enrichment Services, \$25,600 for Bethlehem Centers of Nashville, \$24,000 for Carnegie Writers, and \$30,720 for Rocklife Youth. Ms. Harutyunyan will be back next month to allocate the remaining funds.

iii. Ms. Ezell motioned to approve the contract amendments. Mr. Rand seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Vote to add William Edmondson Art Donation for the Edgehill Library, *Jahan Mahdi*

- i. Jena Schmid introduced Jahan Mahdi, the manager of the Edgehill Branch Library. The art donation would be a tribute to the neighborhood and has already been reviewed by the administrative team.
- ii. Ms. Mahdi explained that the art piece was created by Nadine Shillingford as a live demonstration during the William Edmondson Arts and Culture Festival. The piece depicts William Edmondson, a famous limestone carver who worked in the Edgehill neighborhood in the 1930s and 40s. He was also the first African American artist to have a solo show at the Museum of Modern Art in 1937. He is an important figure in the community, and the Edgehill Branch Library would like to have the work displayed.

iii. Katy Varney motioned to approve the art donation. Ms. Ezell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Budget Requests for FY27, *Terri Luke and Susan Drye*

- i. The operational budget requests are due on February 6th. Ms. Luke presented NPL's FY27 requests to the board:
 1. Two positions for regional branches to reach the state minimum for staffing. This is part of a multi-year request that was submitted last year.
 2. Shifting the Materials budget to the operating budget. NPL will also ask for materials funding in both the 4% and operating budgets this year to ensure this is covered.
 3. A system wide program manager to coordinate Adult, Teen, and Children's programming. This position will report to Main, but it will help coordinate programming at branches as well.
 4. A program specialist for the Be Well program which currently has one position.
 5. A program specialist for Digital Inclusion as they are unable to meet the current demand with their staffing level.
 6. Moving Bookmobile positions to Metro funds.
 7. A shuttle service for Main parking. The library may or may not need a shuttle, depending on what NDOT plans to do with the garage.
- ii. Ms. Varney asked if we could continue to request the materials budget in both the operating and 4% funds. Ms. Drye explained that NPL can request it from both until the funding is moved over to the operating budget.

IX. Staff Report

- a. Results of the September Library Card Sign Up Month and Look Ahead to 2026, *Andrea Fanta*
 - i. Andrea Fanta presented the results of the September library card sign up campaign. This campaign was designed to gather new customers and celebrate current patrons. Overall, MarCom created a winning customer value proposition and evergreen messaging. They also garnered community support while being data informed and staff driven. Ms. Fanta noted that adding incentives and increasing the production value could help to acquire more library card sign-ups.
- b. Bellevue Branch Library Report, *Annie Herlocker*
 - i. Ms. Herlocker provided a brief overview of highlights from last year, including Bellevue's 10-year anniversary, programming statistics, and some of the civic services that are offered.

X. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 1:23 PM.

Next Scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting

February 17, 2026

Donelson Branch Library

Meeting Room

3714 Old Lebanon Pike

Nashville, TN 37214

12:00 PM