

Nashville Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes
June 16, 2026
Bordeaux Branch Library
12:00 PM

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

Library Staff: Terri Luke, Jena Schmid, Susan Drye, Linda Harrison, Andrea Fanta, Sherry Adams, Chantel Clark, Annie Herlocker, Erin Piper, Larry Jirik, Forrest Eagle, Hannah Gerst, Travis Humbert, Jay Millis, Cameron McCasland, Eric Lowy, Kyle Cook, Ashley Monk, Shelly Bryson-de Los Santos, and Emily Kriebel

Others: Shawn Bakker, President of NPLF; Macy Amos and Kelli Woodard, Metropolitan Attorneys at Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County; Steve Reiter; Sharon Emerson

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

- a. Meeting called to order at 12:09 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. Kyle Cook requested to speak on the Director’s Update. Mr. Cook spoke on behalf of SEIU and asked the Library Board to consider renaming the Hadley Park Branch after Kwame Lillard. Mr. Lillard was a Freedom Rider and Civil Rights activist who helped to organize the Nashville sit-ins during the 1960’s. Mr. Lillard also served on Metro Council from 1991 till 1995, and he passed away in 2020. Mr. Cook

highlighted Mr. Lillard's pivotal role in the Nashville Civil Rights Movement and noted that renaming the Hadley Park Branch would help signal to residents and tourists that library spaces are open for everyone.

IV. Board Chair Comments, *Joyce Searcy*

- a. Joyce Searcy thanked the Main Library staff for their hard work planning and facilitating the Main Library 25th Anniversary reopening celebration. The event was successful, and several members of council were able to attend.
- b. Ms. Searcy was delighted to meet Dr. Mary Frances Berry who will be speaking at the Main Library on June 17th. She advised the board to sign up for the event even if they could not attend in person as the event will be livestreamed.

V. Approval of Minutes: May 19, 2026

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

VI. Library Director Report, *Terri Luke*

- a. Terri Luke thanked Chantel Clark, the Reopening taskforce, and everyone who helped to make the Main Library 25th Anniversary a success. Almost 1,500 people were in attendance, and the library was able to secure both a parking deal and WeGo passes for the day. Activities included balloon art, face painting, puppet shows, story time, various building tours, a DJ set up, and other programs. It was wonderful to see how the space can be activated.
- b. NPL received three 4% allocations this fiscal year, meaning that a historic \$5.8 million was given to collections. Ms. Luke thanked everyone for their hard work advocating on NPL's behalf. While "Books are Half of the Story," materials are NPL's primary product, and Ms. Luke is excited to update the library's print collection. NPL also received additional money for the Green Hills renovation, systemwide maintenance, and new timekeeping software. NPL leadership has met with Metro Finance and ITS multiple times to discuss this software as it would allow the library to keep the current work week. The process of acquiring and rolling out this system is in the early stages.
- c. On Thursday, Terri will hold her final quarterly check-in with staff. For this meeting, she will go over budgets.
- d. To create the Patron Experience Survey, NPL has been working with Professor VanEpps at Vanderbilt. He has been instrumental in helping to craft the survey. NPL is working to find a consulting firm to help conduct focus groups and analyze the survey data. Ms. Luke met with a potential firm that is based out of Minneapolis and has worked with Ms. Clark previously. The survey is part of the Continuous Improvement Plan. The library continues to work on completing the CIP.
 - i. Ms. Ezell asked about participation in previous surveys. Ms. Luke explained that NPL has not conducted a survey of this nature, but the consulting firm

stated that 800 surveys would need to be collected to be statistically relevant to the population of Davidson County. Ms. Luke is confident that the library can get 800 completed surveys as the design survey for Richland Park alone had over 706 responses.

- e. Toni Cooper will be working with the Admin Team to focus on creating a strategic vision and values. Ms. Luke hopes that this work will help move the library toward creating a strategic plan. Once Ms. Cooper finishes with the Admin Team, she will begin working with the managers.
- f. Chantel Clark examined the Equal Access department. Previously, NPL received a state grant to offer statewide services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals, but this grant did not fully cover costs. Equal Access will not renew the grant this year, and they will begin refocusing on the needs of Davidson County residents. Ms. Clark added that services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community will continue, but the grant will now return to the state.
 - i. Ms. Searcy asked for more information about the Equal Access division. Ms. Luke explained that Equal Access focuses on providing accommodations to customers who are blind, visually impaired, Deaf, hard of hearing, autistic, or have mobility issues or learning disabilities.

VII. Foundation Report, *Shawn Bakker*

- a. Fundraisers for Begin Bright are still happening. Shawn Bakker asked the Board to send her the names of people to invite to these gatherings.
 - i. Ms. Searcy asked for an update on the Begin Bright funding goal. Ms. Bakker stated that NPLF has raised \$22 million of the \$27 million goal. They've been focusing on local donors, and they will expand to national funding once there is data available from the Vanderbilt cohort studies.
- b. The next Library 101 tours will be on July 8th and August 19th.
- c. The Gala will be on November 6th and 7th. There will be a donor event on Friday night, a free public lecture on Saturday morning, and the large event on Saturday night at the Main Library.
- d. The Next Chapter Society has partnered with local shops and restaurants for Check Out Nashville which is happening this week. A portion of proceeds from these businesses will go toward the Foundation.

VIII. New Business

- a. Vote to Approve Grant Contracts from the Nashville Public Library Foundation to the Nashville Public Library for FY27, *Susan Drye*
 - i. Nashville Public Library Program Enhancement and Improvements Grant, \$825,575
 - 1. Susan Drye explained that this grant covers many programs.
 - 2. **Mr. Rand motioned to approve the grant. Rosalyn Carpenter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

- ii. Nashville Public Library In-Kind Program Enhancement and Improvements Grant, \$3,578,330
 - 1. Ms. Drye stated that these programs are paid by the Foundation, but because Metro receives the benefit of the programs, they need to be approved by the board.
 - 2. Mr. Rand motioned to approve the grant. Ms. Ezell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
 - iii. Studio NPL Outreach Coordinator Grant, \$95,400
 - 1. This grant covers a position with Studio NPL.
 - 2. Mr. Rand motioned to approve the grant. Ms. Ezell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
 - iv. Education and Literacy Grant, \$764,900
 - 1. This grant covers 11 different positions with Bringing Books to Life and Limitless Libraries.
 - 2. Mr. Rand motioned to approve the grant. Ms. Carpenter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
 - v. Public Library Wishing Chair Productions Grant, \$128,000
 - 1. This grant goes toward the Wishing Chair puppeteer salaries.
 - 2. Mr. Rand motioned to approve the grant. Dr. Nadine de la Rosa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
 - 3. Ms. Searcy asked if the grants would go before Council in this form. Macy Amos explained that Ms. Drye will work with Metro Grants to ensure everything is set up properly.
- b. Vote to Approve Donation from the Nashville Public Library Foundation to the Nashville Public Library for the following items, *Susan Drye*
 - i. Ms. Drye explained that in-kind donations must be approved by the NPL Board before they can be accepted and approved by Metro. This means that both the Bookmobile and the new Puppet Truck must be approved before they can be Metro vehicles. The Bookmobile cost \$384,557 and the Puppet Truck cost \$74,417.
 - ii. Mr. Rand motioned to approve the donation of the two vehicles. Ms. Ezell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
 - iii. Ms. Searcy asked when these would appear on a Council agenda. Ms. Amos stated that they could not be filed until they were approved by the Board. Now that there is approval, it will likely be the 1st or 2nd meeting of July. Ms. Drye will be in attendance to answer any questions, so she will let the Board know when it is.

IX. Staff Reports

- a. Bordeaux Library Report, *Erin Piper*
 - i. Erin Piper welcomed the group to Bordeaux. This past fiscal year, they had over 750 programs, including Bingo Trivia, story time, computer classes,

and more. Tuesdays are usually busy due to a popular chair yoga class and story time.

- ii. Bordeaux enjoys hosting larger collaborative branch celebrations, like their Festival of Lights celebration and the 25th birthday bash. Upcoming events include a Summer Reading Challenge block party and a Resource Fair. Bordeaux is the only branch to have a dedicated outreach coordinator, and Shelly Bryson-de Los Santos does a great job of keeping the library connected in the community.
- iii. Their reservable spaces are popular, with over 2,000 bookings and 300 meeting room reservations. Bordeaux is also a very popular voting site and is regularly the busiest polling location in Davidson County.
- iv. Projects and goals for the coming fiscal year include surveying customers about programming, growing their physical collection, and increasing their circulation.
 - 1. Keith Simmons asked how the branch funds their programs. Ms. Luke explained that several of the grants they voted on will be used for this kind of programming. This year, branches will receive \$32,000 to divide equitably amongst each other.
- b. SEIU Update, *Nikki Glassley*
 - i. Nikki Glassley was unable to attend, so this agenda item has been moved to a later date.

X. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Next Scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting

**July 21, 2026
East Branch Library
Meeting Room
206 Gallatin Avenue
Nashville, TN 37206
12:00 PM**