Nashville Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes
July 21, 2026
East Branch Library
12:00 PM

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

Library Staff: Terri Luke, Jena Schmid, Susan Drye, Linda Harrison, Andrea Fanta, Chantel Clark, Sara Morse, Dr. Joshua Love, Travis Humbert, Jay Millis, Cameron McCasland, Eric Lowy, Joan Brasher, and Emily Krieble

Others: Shawn Bakker, President of NPLF; Macy Amos and Kelli Woodard, Metropolitan Attorneys at Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davison County; Steve Reiter, Justin Brown

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

   a. Meeting called 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."
   b. Steve Reiter objected to the meeting going forward. He stated that he reviewed the agenda that was on the website and asserted that it was not the correct agenda. He requested that the items requiring a vote be deferred to the next meeting.
      i. Joyce Searcy thanked Mr. Reiter for attending the meeting and for advocating for the library. Cameron McCasland spoke with ITS and confirmed that the correct agenda was posted the previous week in advance. The only error was that the Next Meeting information at the bottom of the agenda was not updated. After discussion, Ms. Searcy stated that the board

would vote on all items as planned and if anything was amiss according to Metro Legal, then they would revote on the items at the September meeting.

ii. Kelli Woodward stated that Metro ITS confirmed that the correct agenda was posted in the proper amount of time, and while there was a clerical error in the Next Meeting section at the bottom, the agenda itself contained the correct information. Ms. Searcy proceeded with the meeting.

IV. Board Chair Comments, *Joyce Searcy*

a. Ms. Searcy thanked the board members for their feedback and comments on Terri Luke's performance evaluation. She also thanked library staff for their hard work during the Summer Reading Challenge.

V. Approval of Minutes: June 16, 2026

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

VI. Library Director Report, *Terri Luke*

a. Ms. Luke thanked the board for their comments and feedback. She expressed how grateful she was to have a supportive board and outstanding staff.

b. Thanks to the historic allocation of $5.8 million to the collection budget, NPL is able to invest in new materials and expand physical collections. With this funding, NPL is purchasing new print materials. Already several branches, including Madison and Bordeaux, have had customers notice an increase in items, and they are appreciative. The vinyl and board game collections will also be expanded.

c. The administrative team has been working on updating the key strategies document for FY27. Once complete, Ms. Luke will send it to the board. She will meet with Mayor O'Connell to discuss them on August 13th.

d. Because the Nashville Public Library Foundation was able to find extra funds in their budget, NPL was able to boost the foreign language collection, hire a consulting firm to help with the customer experience survey, hire another consultant to help update the Master Facilities plan, and replace the other puppet truck.

    i. Mr. Rand asked if the Master Facilities plan will include future locations. Ms. Drye confirmed that it would and those locations would be based on Nashville growth and other factors. With updated data, this means that the current priority list may shift. Ms. Ezell asked about picking specific locations, and Ms. Drye explained that will depend on where Metro can purchase land.

e. Ms. Luke and Ms. Drye will meet with Metro Finance and the Mayor's Office to discuss the capital spending plan on August 3rd.

f. Marion Christmon will retire at the end of July. Ms. Christmon has been with NPL for over 30 years, and she has had an enormous impact on the library. Her last Cyber Senior class graduated this month, and it was a wonderful event.

        i. Katy Varney added that the Cyber Senior program is one of her favorites, as it is a great example of meeting community needs outside of the library.
    g. The Board will not meet in August, so the next meeting will be in September. And the October board meeting will now take place at the Main Library.
        i. Ms. Ezell asked if there were any updates on the Main Library parking garage. Ms. Luke did not have any updates. Jon Boghozian from NDOT will be at the September meeting to give an update and answer questions.
        ii. Ms. Drye added that the McKendree and Nashville Yards parking lots have extended their reduced fee time window from 90 minutes to 120 minutes.

VII. Foundation Report, *Shawn Bakker*

a. In June, the Next Chapter Society organized the Check Out Nashville program where local businesses agreed to help host events and donate proceeds to NPLF. It went very well. Their next event is book club at Love & Exile featuring author Lyndsey Rush.
b. Ms. Bakker handed out Save the Dates for the Gala. Ocean Voung will be the honoree and NPLF is working out parking options as this will be at the Main Library.
c. The Foundation's annual meeting will be September 23rd 8:30am-10:30am. As all NPL board members will be invited, Ms. Bakker and her team will make sure the meeting is open and posted properly.
d. The Carnegie Society met its goal for the year!

VIII. New Business

a. Vote on Grant Between the State of Tennessee Office of Secretary of State, Tennessee State Library and Archives and Nashville Public Library as Part of Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, July 1-June 30, 2027, $430,500.00, *Susan Drye*
    i. This grant provides funding to purchase new library materials. $10,000 of the grant comes from the federal government and is used primarily on Large Print titles. The rest is spent on whatever the system needs.
    ii. Ms. Ezell asked how long NPL has received this grant. Ms. Drye explained that this grant has been in place as long as she has worked for NPL. The amount has increased over the years, and it needs board approval before going to Metro council.
        1. **Mr. Rand motioned to approve the grant. Ms. Ezell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
b. Vote on NAZA Contract, Water Walkers, $71,900.00, *Dr. Joshua Love*
    i. This funding would allow Water Walkers to provide more summer programming for the Edgehill community.
    ii. Mr. Rand asked if NAZA had worked with Water Walkers before. Dr. Love confirmed that they have worked together previously, and it is a

great program. They work with children in the Edgehill area and take them to Percy Priest Lake for activities.

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

c. Vote on Terri Luke's 2.4% Open Range Increase, *Susan Drye*

i. Ms. Drye explained that the Library Director receives the across the board pay increases given to all employees, but anything above that amount needs to be approved by the board. She added that if this were to be approved, it would be effective as of July 1st. Ms. Searcy stated that based on the evaluation, Ms. Luke passed and should receive the open range increase as well.

1. **Ms. Ezell motioned to approve Ms. Luke's 2.4% pay increase effective July 1st. Mr. Rand seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

IX. Staff Reports

a. Nashville Soccer Club Library Card Campaign, *Andrea Fanta*

i. Andrea Fanta began by showing the board several videos promoting the Nashville Soccer Club card and Summer Reading Challenge.

ii. The NSC card was geared toward NSC fans to grow the number of cardholders and retain current customers.

iii. In May, the MarCom team and staff volunteers worked a booth at three home matches at Geodis Park and talked about the campaign.

iv. Out of 2500 cards, 2311 were claimed.

v. Ms. Fanta noted that the collaboration between NPL and NSC was incredible. The timing was perfect because of the World Cup. She thanked Eddie Patton for the beautiful creative that went on the card. She also thanked Gracie Pasley, Annie Herlocker, Pat Bashir, Corey Frederick, and Ryan Darrow, as well as Madison, East, and Donelson branches, and the entire MarCom team.

1. Ms. Varney asked if the card had NPL on it. Ms. Fanta explained that it was on the back of the card. For future cards, she will make sure NPL is on the front of the card as well.

b. East Library Branch Report, *Sara Morse*

i. Ms. Morse thanked the Board for coming to the East branch. It is the second oldest branch still standing and the fourth smallest branch. There are six people on staff even though this is a neighborhood branch due to the high volume of teens visiting after school. During the school year, they average 70 visits per day in their teen area.

ii. They offer children's programs as the neighborhood is full of younger families; they also have a good number of Book-a-Librarian appointments to offer one-on-one job help. Overall, East is a busy branch with strong numbers for circulation, terminal activity and visits.

X. Adjournment

a. The meeting adjourned at 1:13 PM.

<u>Next Scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting</u>
September 15, 2026
Madison Branch Library
Meeting Room
610 Gallatin Pike South,
Nashville, TN 37115
12:00 PM