

**MINUTES
ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Tuesday, February 17, 2026
Kossmann Room
7:00 PM**

President Cindy Wellwood called the February 17, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members in attendance included: Marsha Baker, Ingrid Becton, Jane Chornij, Taylor Holop, Carol Jacobsen, Bill Ryan, Sue Sadowski, and Bill Shanklin.

Also in attendance were Library Director Mary Beth Harper and Assistant Director Marcy Rodriguez.

Digital Collections Librarian, Jeremy Slayton, was also in attendance.

There was no correspondence.

The first order of business was the approval of the Minutes of the January 20, 2026 Regular Board of Trustees Meeting. Trustee Jacobsen moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the January 20, 2026 Regular Board of Trustees Meeting be approved as presented.

Trustee Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next order of business was the approval of the February 17, 2026 Accounts Payable. Trustee Chornij moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the February 17, 2026 Accounts Payable be approved as presented.

Trustee Becton seconded the motion. Director Harper answered several questions about the invoices. The motion carried.

Director Harper reviewed the financial reports and stated that the Library receives most of its property tax payments in June. Sufficient funds in reserves cover expenses until tax payments are received. Director Harper then answered several questions from the Board.

Ms. Harper reviewed the expenditure report. She noted that the Group Health line reflects the yearly lump sum payments made to employees enrolled in the Health Savings Account plan.

In the Director's Report, Ms. Harper talked about the Patio Debut Party, which will be on Saturday, June 20, from 1–3 p.m. with a rain date of June 27. She also talked about this month's edition of *Fine Print*, exploring libraries as "Third Places." Third Places are public spaces beyond home, work, or school that offer opportunities to gather, connect, or reflect.

In the President's Report, Ms. Wellwood stated that, since EPL is in DuPage County, this will not affect the Library. However, in Cook County, libraries will receive their funding later than expected due to delays in property tax bills. She also noted that the Broadview Library had a water main break and was forced to close for now.

The first order of New Business was the Digital Materials Review. Digital Collections Librarian, Jeremy Slayton reviewed the EPL's digital collections.

The next order of New Business was the adoption of the Annual Resolution for Reserve Funds. Illinois law requires that the Board designate a purpose for reserve funds each year. Trustee Sadowski moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the **Library Employee Appreciation Fund** be continued for the Elmhurst Public Library in FY 2026, to be used for employee appreciation as outlined in the agreement between the Library and the donor.

That the **Capital Replacement Fund** be continued for the Elmhurst Public Library in FY 2026, to be used to provide funds for the replacement, repair, or improvement of the building and its components.

Trustee Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next item of New Business was the approval of 2025 Annual Report. Trustee Shanklin moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the 2025 Illinois Public Library Annual Report for the Elmhurst Public Library is approved as presented.

Trustee Chornij seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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Director Harper discussed the possibility of adding artwork in mural form to the new patio space, which would be applied to limestone and the stone walls instead of painting directly on the building. She met with Mary Smith from the Kids' Library and Alison Dondlinger, the chair of the Public Arts Commission. The budget is estimated to be between \$10,000 and \$20,000. Harper suggested collaborating with Mary and Alison to organize a call for local artists and to create an RFP outlining the parameters, budget, and timeline, with proposals to be presented to the Board of Trustees. The Board agreed to pursue this idea.

There being no Other Business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.