

**MINUTES
ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Tuesday, August 18, 2026
Kossmann Room
7:00 PM**

President Cindy Wellwood called the August 18, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:04 p.m.

Board members in attendance included: Marsha Baker, Ingrid Becton, Jane Chornij, Bill Ryan, and Susan Sadowski.

Trustees Taylor Holop, Carol Jacobsen, and Bill Shanklin were absent.

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

Secretary Baker administered the oath of office to Trustees Jane Chornij and Cindy Wellwood.

There were no visitors in attendance.

Besides the correspondence included in the Board packet, there was no other correspondence.

The first order of business was the approval of the Minutes of the July 21, 2026 Regular Board of Trustees Meeting. Trustee Sadowski moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the July 21, 2026 Regular Board of Trustees Meeting
be approved as presented.

Trustee Chornij seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next order of business was the approval of the Executive Session Minutes of the July 21, 2026 Regular Board of Trustees Meeting. Trustee Ryan moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Executive Session Minutes of the July 21, 2026 Regular Board of
Trustees Meeting be approved as presented.

Trustee Chornij seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next order of business was the approval of the August 18, 2026 Accounts Payable. Trustee Chornij moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the August 18, 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 a property tax payment of \$58,290 along with a replacement tax payment of \$69,339 were received. The Library also received the Per Capita Grant for \$77,836. She noted under Other Income that journal entries for Rental Income, Employee Health, and Employee Dental were not made in time for this meeting. These figures will be included next month. Director Harper then answered several questions from the Board.

Ms. Harper reviewed the expenditure report and stated expenses were proceeding as usual. She noted that the \$41,225 payment under Capital Outlay was for the bid specifications and Jeff Chamberlain's work so far.

In the Director's Report, Ms. Harper wanted to highlight two AI-generated articles that stated Elmhurst Library Trustees have not been appointed. She wanted to make the Board aware, as we may see more articles. This is ongoing, and these articles are also covering other libraries and the park district. She asked the Board to let her know if they see articles with incorrect information.

Ms. Harper stated that customer service training took place on the morning of Staff Institute Day and was well received by staff. After lunch, staff participated in a team-building exercise that provided an opportunity to interact with staff from different departments. These exercises are always popular and help staff build connections with other team members. It was a wonderful day and a great opportunity for staff to learn, connect, and have some fun together.

Ms. Harper also talked about the tornado warning, making this the third time this season that we've had to shelter in the basement with patrons. The Library was especially busy this time, as the warning occurred on a Tuesday during storytime. There were approximately 80 children and caregivers in storytime alone, in addition to everyone else in the building. The basement was crowded, and the warning lasted for about 45 minutes.

She also noted that the Kids' Library renovated this week, removing one of the large book stacks to create additional space for seating and play. This is part of their vision to create a section specifically designed for elementary school-aged children.

In the President's Report, Ms. Wellwood thanked the Trustees for their support.

The first order of Unfinished Business was the Draft of the 2027 Budget. Ms. Harper resumed last month's discussion of the 2027 budget and highlighted a few changes. Changes include a landscaping project for the south side of the building, which is estimated to cost \$100,000. Ms. Harper reviewed the project and stated that it will reduce the Capital Replacement Fund by the cost of the project. The Trustees agreed to approve the 2027 budget. Trustee Sadowski moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the 2027, 2028 budget be approved as presented.

Trustee Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The first order of New Business was the approval of the Annual Audit. Director Harper reviewed the audit. Trustee Becton moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Annual Audit be approved as presented.

Trustee Chornij seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next order of New Business was the approval of the destruction of the Executive Session Recording. Trustee Sadowski moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That Administrative Staff is authorized to destroy the Executive Session recording dated 7/16/2024.

Trustee Becton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next order of New Business was the approval to purchase café chairs and a conference table. Director Harper reviewed the quote. Trustee Becton moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Administrative staff is authorized to purchase 30 chairs for the café area at a cost not to exceed \$5,700.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Administrative Staff is authorized to purchase a conference table at a cost not to exceed \$6,000.

Trustee Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There being no Other Business, the meeting was adjourned 7:56 p.m.