

Farmington Libraries since 1901

Library Board Minutes

18 February 2026

Attendees: Linda Chapron, Trish Garcia, Gary Ontko, Rich Olivastro, Alan Sherman, Elisabeth Umpleby, Jocelyn Kennedy, Lyman Louis, Celia Bouza, Eric Ort **Guests:** Curt Goswick (FVGLA), Jessica Lister (new proposed member), Nadine Canto, Jerusha Neely

Members not present: Ida Franklin, Brian Lindroth, Dana Pescatello, Vanitha Patil

Quorum: A quorum was determined. The meeting was called to order by Alan at 7:02pm.

Public Comment: There were no members of the public present, and consequently, no public comments were made.

Approval of the January meeting minutes: Lyman moved, and Linda seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously with 2 corrections.

Vote to Elect New Board Members:

The board held a vote to elect Jessica Lister as new board member. Rich moved; Lyman seconded. With all in favor, Jessica was elected to the Board.

Presentation by Jerusha Neely on Mini Oral Histories at the Maker Fair on March 22. The goal is for community members to share a story in 5-10 minute interviews. Volunteers are needed to help conduct the interviews and run the recording equipment. Contact Jocelyn or Jerusha if interested in volunteering.

Executive Director Report:

- The main library is no longer authorized to provide passport acceptance services to the community, beginning February 13. A bi-partisan piece of legislation will be voted on in the spring to restore the ability to provide the service. 1400 libraries are impacted across the country (non-profit libraries were removed). The financial impact is about \$12,000 in revenue each year. Passport photos will still be offered at \$17/person. The space used for the passport services will be converted into a study room.
- There is a proposed \$140,000 cut to a service called BorrowIT which is managed by the State Library. The program enables library patrons to check out books from their home library as well as other libraries in the state; it also allows the books to be returned to any participating library and subsequently returned to their original home library. The library received \$12,000 to participate in the program; a cut in funding could impact the library's budget as well as cause other libraries to no longer participate in the program.
- Makers Fair - The Farmington Community Chest gave a \$1,000 grant for the fair; the Friends of the Library donated \$3,500; and Ion Bank gave \$250. Jocelyn is looking into

other support from local businesses. Planning for the event is well underway, and Jackson Laboratories is attending this year.

- Laura DeLullo's last day is in April; telephone interviews are already completed and in person interviewing will begin soon.
- Patti Brady-Lux is retiring on March 4; interviewing will begin shortly.
- A manager's retreat was held at the Barney Library recently to discuss needed staffing, skills, and community spaces. A new organizational chart is in progress to reconfigure departments and job descriptions. Preliminary results will go to the Personnel Committee in late March/early April with discussion at the May Board meeting.
- Library statistics exceed last year's metrics in almost every category.
- Nothing unusual in the budget; equipment repair, building repair, and building maintenance were over-budgeted to cover unexpected bills in infrastructure. Any excess in those funds will be moved to the HVAC system.
- There is a Town Council budget meeting on March 12, and Jocelyn will make them aware of the library's building infrastructure status.
- Jocelyn is going to transfer a portion of the library's checking account into the investment account to earn better interest.
- Adaptive Storytime is very successful; last year there were 5 children and this year there are 15 core children. It is a great experience for both parents and children, and all due credit to Lorette Fiebleson for her work on the program.
- One rooftop unit is not operating at full capacity; only one part of the 3-part boiler system is actively working. The Barney has also had heating and electrical issues.

Friends Report:

- The book sale a couple of weeks ago was successful, making about \$1,000.
- The Book Nook continues to do well, generating about \$1,000/month.
- The annual membership appeal is coming shortly.
- The annual book sale is coming 5/14-5/16.
- Donated \$10,000 for programming in February, including the Maker Fair.
- Will have a table for the Maker Fair.
- Have contracted with Nutmeg Signs and Graphic Arts to make a sign adjacent to the library's front doors welcoming patrons into the garden space, as well as a sign near the gazebo entrance.

Committee Reports:

- Personnel/Celia - an email was sent regarding the Executive Director's evaluation policy. The vote will be held in April. It includes how to measure success as well as a

stakeholder feedback form that will be used to interview staff employees, board members, and the executive committee.

- Bylaws/Curt - the current draft is at the attorney's office; waiting to hear back.

Other:

- The Friends of the Library in conjunction with Jocelyn will nominate someone for the CLA Volunteer of the Year Award. For the Board, we should explore formal mechanisms to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of the volunteers who have donated so much of their time.
- Annual FVGLA meeting is on March 19 at 6:30pm in the Community Room.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Lyman, seconded by Celia. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Next board meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2026 at 7p at the main library.