

Farmington Libraries since 1901

Library Board Minutes

June 17, 2025

Attendees: Dana Pescatello, Alan Sherman, Rich Olivastro, Jocelyn Kennedy, Elisabeth Umpleby, Henry Gu, Linda Chapron, Celia Bouza, Amy Palumbo, Kate Martorelli, Norma Hartley, Brian Lindroth,
Board Members Not Present: Vanitha Patil, Gary Ontko, Lyman Louis, Ida Franklin, Trish Garcia

Quorum: A quorum was determined. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

Approval of the May Meeting Minutes: Celia moved, and Linda seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved with 1 correction.

Board Chair Report:

Dana reminded the board that the library's Summer Reading Kickoff Celebration will take place on June 18. She encouraged all board members to attend, participate actively in the festivities, and offer support to event attendees. She also shared the newly designed staff t-shirt created for the summer reading initiative.

Dana presented the board meeting schedule for the year 2025-2026. She also discussed the plan to have 3 executive committee meetings throughout the year. The board unanimously approved the board meeting schedule with a motion by Linda and a second by Celia.

Dana informed the board that the library has received a generous \$25,000 gift in memory of David Palmer, a former board member and instrumental figure in the Barney Branch renovation. Of the total, \$15,000 is designated for the FVGLA endowment to support Maker Space programming. With a motion by Alan and a second by Norma, the board voted unanimously to accept the gift and to designate \$15,000 of this gift to establish the David Palmer Maker Space Fund to sustain the maker space in the future and to provide opportunities for hands-on learning and exploration within Maker Space.

Finally, Dana announced that work on revising the library bylaws will be postponed to the September meeting. An executive session will also be scheduled in September to work on the new executive director's evaluation standard.

Executive Director Report:

Jocelyn reported that the library has launched a new online store through Bonfire, featuring merchandise created on demand in Maker Space. This initiative provides a new channel for engagement and fundraising.

She also noted that staff continue to work on the implementation planning for the strategic plan adopted earlier this year. Jocelyn will begin providing updates on the plan's progress in future board reports.

As part of the library's community-building efforts, Jocelyn announced plans to pilot a pop-up library program at several locations, designed to extend services and outreach. She also shared her involvement

in the America 250 project, which includes developing a community cookbook and launching a cookbook club.

In financial news, Jocelyn reported a projected budget surplus of \$119,191 for the current fiscal year, primarily due to unfilled staff positions. She explained that the surplus will roll over into the next fiscal year.

Friends of the Library:

Linda reported that the Friends of the Library held a successful annual book sale, generating over \$10,000 in proceeds. The event's success was made possible by the enthusiastic support of numerous community volunteers.

Unsold books from the sale were donated to a variety of charitable organizations, including American Friends for Kenya, The Mercy Homes, Camp Courant, New Horizon, and several other local charities.

Revision of Library Personnel Policy:

Jocelyn presented proposed revisions to the existing personnel policy, which had been distributed to board members in advance as part of the meeting materials.

Following the presentation, Brian moved to approve the proposed changes, and the motion was seconded by Celia. The board voted unanimously to adopt the revised personnel policy.

Committee Reports:

Nomination Committee:

Alan reported that the committee is actively working to recruit new board members to fill the positions of three outgoing members.

He noted that Jennel Lovig, who attended the previous board meeting as a guest, has formally expressed her interest in joining the board.

Brian moved to approve Jennel Lovig's appointment as a new board director, and Celia seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of her appointment.

Technology:

Henry reported that the Technology Committee has recommended reclassifying the Backup Policy as a Library Guideline. This change aims to better reflect the policy's operational nature and to allow for more flexible, timely updates. Under the proposed reclassification, responsibility for reviewing and approving revisions would shift from the Board to the Technology Committee.

After discussion, the Board agreed that members should review the current Backup Policy before proceeding with a vote on the reclassification. Accordingly, the motion was tabled and will be revisited at the September board meeting, providing members time to review the policy in detail.

Board Recognition:

The Board acknowledged and celebrated the completion of the terms of three outgoing board members. They are Norma Hartley, Kate Martorelli, and Henry Gu. In appreciation of their dedicated service and valuable contributions, each member was presented with a book, a mug printed by the board chair Dana, and a card as tokens of gratitude.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29pm. Linda moved to adjourn the meeting. Celia seconded.

Next Board Meeting: September 17 at 7:00pm.