



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
The Board of Trustees  
Webster Groves Public Library  
March 18, 2026

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18. President Anita Radcliffe presided, and Library Director Madison Morris kept the minutes. Also present: Trustees Leanne Waugh, Janey Worthington, Lea Ann Coates, Jenine Harris, Dana Cooley, Ed Scholl. Not present: Trustees Sherry Taylor, Fred Toelle, and City Council Liaison David Franklin.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Minutes of the February 18, 2026 Meeting**

A correction was noted for a typo regarding the roll call for moving into a closed session. Ms. Worthington moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Dr. Harris seconded. All were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

**Correspondence**

None.

**President's Report**

Ms. Radcliffe noted that this was Ms. Waugh's final meeting as a trustee. She thanked Ms. Waugh for her years of service and noted that she will continue to be seen in her new role on City Council.

**Librarian's Report**

Ms. Morris reported that HVAC work is ongoing, with heating and cooling currently functioning in three areas of the building. She noted that the Winter Reading Challenge had 79 participants and expressed satisfaction with this number, given that the Children's Room was closed for two of the four weeks of the program due to HVAC work.

**Advanced Planning**

None.

## **Building and Grounds**

See the Library Director's Report.

## **Finance**

Discussion was held regarding reclassifying a \$245,000 expense as a capital expense rather than an operating expense.

Mr. Scholl moved to reclassify the capital projects line item to appear below operating expenses and be shown as a capital project expense that is coming out of reserves. Ms. Worthington seconded. All were in favor.

Additional notes:

- Revenue is approximately \$74,000 above last year.
- Discussion included the impact of the senior tax freeze and the slow pace of tax revenue collection.
- It was noted that more funds are typically released in May.

Ms. Worthington moved to approve the financial report. Ms. Waugh seconded. All were in favor, and the report was approved.

## **Human Resources**

Discussion focused on the 2026/2027 Director Objectives, organized around leadership, budgeting, strategic planning, and tax levy preparation.

Key priorities include strengthening staff communication and leadership development, improving budgeting processes and multi-year financial planning, and developing a competitive pay framework informed by market data. Objectives also support implementation of strategic plan goals, including improvements to facilities, organizational culture, collections, and community outreach.

Additional discussion emphasized the importance of measurable outcomes, clear timelines, and ongoing staff engagement. It was also noted that the current strategic plan will expire in two years and future planning will be needed.

Ms. Coates moved to approve the 2026–2027 Director Objectives, with the understanding that Ms. Morris and the HR Committee will incorporate board feedback and refine the document. Ms. Worthington seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **Policy**

None.

## **Friends Report**

None.

## **City Hall**

None.

## **Tax Levy**

Discussion was held regarding timing of a potential levy, with consideration given to placing the measure on the August 2026 ballot rather than April 2027. Benefits include earlier financial stability, support for capital needs, and flexibility to return to the ballot if needed.

Ongoing maintenance and larger capital projects were discussed, along with the impact of current projects on reserves. The Board noted the importance of long-term financial planning, including consideration of the senior tax freeze, expiring levy, and future facility needs.

The importance of balancing a sustainable levy request while maintaining service levels and addressing facility improvements was emphasized. The Library's role as a key community resource and the value of its services and programs were also noted.

Ms. Waugh moved that the Library place a tax levy measure on the August 2026 ballot. Ms. Cooley seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Discussion was held regarding next steps, including determining the proposed levy increase, developing ballot language, filing for the election, and communicating with voters. This will also include engaging the Friends of the Library and other outreach efforts.

## **Old Business**

*Tax Levy*

See above.

## **New Business**

*Director's Objectives*

See Human Resources.

*2026/2027 Budget*

Ms. Morris reported that she has begun work on the 2026–2027 budget and anticipates presenting it to the Board in May. She noted that the budget will be similar to the current year,

with some adjustments in e-resources and Building and Grounds. Discussion included recent changes to Hoopla, which have helped stabilize costs without significant increases. The Finance Committee will meet in the coming months to review the budget in more detail.

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Waugh moved to adjourn. Mr. Scholl seconded. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.