



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Board of Trustees
Webster Groves Public Library
May 20, 2026

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20. President Anita Radcliffe presided, and Library Director Madison Morris kept the minutes. Also present: Trustees Janey Worthington, Lea Ann Coates, Jenine Harris, Ed Scholl, Dana Cooley, Sherry Taylor, Fred Toelle and Mayor Arnold, filling in as City Council Liaison.

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

Public Comment

None.

Minutes of the April 15, 2026 Meeting

Ms. Worthington moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Coates seconded. All were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

Minutes of the May 6, 2026 Meeting

Mr. Toelle moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Cooley seconded. All were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

Correspondence

None.

President's Report

Ms. Radcliffe reported that the Friends of the Library will once again have a booth at the Webster Groves Art Fair to support the Library's upcoming tax levy initiative. Additional information will be provided as plans are finalized.

Librarian's Report

Ms. Morris reported that the HVAC project has been completed.

She also noted that the Library is currently recruiting for both a part-time Reference Assistant and a full-time Children's Librarian. The Children's Librarian position is being filled due to the

upcoming retirement of Children's Librarian Michelle Haffer, who will retire after more than 30 years of service to the Webster Groves Public Library. Board members asked questions regarding the vacant positions and the hiring process.

Advanced Planning

None.

Building and Grounds

Ms. Morris reported that the HVAC project has been completed. She also stated that the Library continues to experience roof leaks during periods of heavy rain; however, no new leak locations have been identified.

Finance

Mr. Scholl reported that the Library made its annual debt payment during April.

Mr. Scholl further reported that the Library was approximately \$11,000 over budget for the month, primarily due to increased expenditures for electronic resources, security services, and replacement of the fire panel. Year-to-date expenditures are approximately \$3,000 over budget.

Building and Grounds expenses are currently approximately \$20,000 over budget due to several one-time maintenance and repair projects. While many of these expenses are not expected to recur annually, the age of the building is beginning to result in increased maintenance needs. Mr. Scholl stated that overall year-end expenditures should remain relatively close to budget projections, though the Library will most likely finish the year slightly over budget.

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

Human Resources

None.

Policy

None.

Friends Report

It was reported that a representative from EveryLibrary attended the most recent Friends of the Library meeting. Additional discussion regarding EveryLibrary's involvement took place under Tax Levy.

City Hall

Mayor Arnold attended the meeting as a substitute for Council Liaison Emily Hixson-Shepard.

The Board received an update regarding the South Elm Shared Use Path project, a proposed bicycle and pedestrian path that is largely funded through a federal grant. The City has released a community survey and is currently reviewing public feedback as it develops a revised proposal.

Additional updates included an increase in parking fines within Webster Groves and a reminder that a public hearing regarding the City budget will be held on June 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Arnold also reported that the City recently reached a three-year agreement with the police union.

Tax Levy

Ms. Morris reported that Library representatives recently participated in training provided by EveryLibrary regarding information-only campaigns and the activities permitted for Library staff and Board members.

She further reported that the tax levy proposal has been officially filed and is now listed on the Board of Elections website.

Ms. Morris stated that a dedicated tax levy information page on the Library's website is expected to go live during the following week and that informational bulletin boards will also be installed throughout the Library.

Old Business

None.

New Business

2026-2027 Budget

Ms. Morris presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2026–2027 budget.

There was discussion regarding several budget categories that continue to experience increasing costs, including electronic resources, utilities, and insurance. Board members discussed the continued rise in both employee health insurance costs and building insurance premiums and the impact these increases have on the Library's operating budget.

Ms. Morris noted that the Library's decision to reduce the monthly Hoopla checkout limit from eight to six checkouts may not have generated as much savings as originally anticipated; however, the change has helped keep Hoopla expenditures within budgeted levels.

The Board also discussed employee compensation and potential salary increases. Additional discussion focused on the work of the Human Resources Committee and future efforts to review staff pay levels, evaluate the Library's staffing model, and identify ways to remain competitive in recruiting and retaining employees.

It was noted that a more comprehensive review of staffing and compensation could be undertaken following the August 4 election.

Ms. Worthington moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget as presented. Mr. Scholl seconded. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

Summer Reading

Ms. Morris provided an overview of the upcoming Summer Reading Program and shared the June and July programming calendar with the Board.

Tax Levy Informational Handouts

Ms. Morris provided the Board with draft informational materials related to the upcoming tax levy initiative, including a general flyer, frequently asked questions document, talking points, and an overall levy summary.

Board members reviewed the materials and discussed several potential revisions. There was discussion regarding terminology used throughout the documents, with members recommending the use of terms such as "ending" or "expiring" rather than "sunset" in order to avoid confusion.

There was also discussion about reorganizing the FAQ document to improve the overall flow and readability of the information.

Board members further discussed adding information noting that the Library's last tax levy increase was approved in 2009, more than 17 years ago.

Additional discussion focused on highlighting the Library's electronic resources and digital collections, which have continued to grow in popularity and usage over the years.

Ms. Morris stated that she would make these revisions and that the Board should expect to see them on the live version of the website soon.

Adjournment

Ms. Cooley moved to adjourn. Dr. Harris seconded. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.