WEBSTER GROVES
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of The Board of Trustees
Webster Groves Public Library
August 19, 2026

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, August 19. 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, Alice Lloyd and City Council Liaison Emily Hixson Shepherd.

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

Introductions:

Jamie Potter – New Children's Librarian.
Jamie started in July and is already making great headway and helping move the Library forward.

Anna Connelly – Practicum student.
Anna is completing her MLIS and completed a practicum with the Library this summer, fulfilling the final practicum requirement for her degree.

Alice Lloyd – New Board Member.
Ms. Lloyd shared that she has seen the Library make a difference in people's lives. She has previously worked in libraries, at the United Nations, and at the World Bank, with experience in knowledge management and communications.

Ms. Lloyd was welcomed to the Board.

Public Comment

None.

Minutes of the July 15, 2026 Meeting

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

Correspondence

Information was shared regarding the completion of the annual audit and the management comment letter.

President's Report

Ms. Radcliffe reminded the Board that a volunteer thank-you event would take place on Friday, August 21.

Librarian's Report

Ms. Morris reported that Proposition L passed on August 4 with more than 82 percent support. She stated that she was pleased with the result and excited to begin moving the planning process forward.

Ms. Morris also reported that the Summer Reading Program had wrapped up and, overall, went very well. Registration was good, and program attendance was strong.

Advanced Planning

Dr. Harris stated that there was nothing new to report at this time but anticipated that there would be new items for the committee to address following the passage of Proposition L.

Building and Grounds

None.

Finance

Mr. Scholl noted that there were three payroll periods during the month of July.

The Library was over budget for the month of July, due in part to the three payroll periods as well as the approximately $22,000 fee paid to the Board of Elections for the August ballot measure.

A total of $150,000 was transferred from the investment account to the operating account. The Library receives the majority of its property tax revenue in December, January, and February, so transfers from the investment account to the operating account are made as needed throughout the remainder of the year.

The Library currently has approximately $1.6 million across its accounts.

Discussion was held regarding the passage of Proposition L and plans to begin replenishing funds previously used from reserves while also addressing other Library needs.

Dr. Harris moved to approve the financial reports. Ms. Taylor seconded. All were in favor.

Human Resources

None.

Policy

None.

Friends Report

The Friends do not meet during the summer. It was noted that the Friends were integral in helping distribute information about Proposition L.

The Friends will resume meeting in September, and the Friends Book Sale will be held in October.

City Hall

Ms. Hixson reported that there had been a City Council meeting the previous evening.

The City recognized Lauren Nouch Day in connection with Balkan Treat Box.

Ms. Hixson also provided an update on the Ozark Theatre. The City Planning Department inspected the property and identified several items requiring attention. Some conditions must be addressed to bring the building back into compliance with City safety requirements. Although the official notice includes language regarding demolition, Ms. Hixson noted that the goal is not to demolish the building but rather to have the necessary work completed within a reasonable timeframe so the building can be returned to a safe condition. She also noted the community's strong affection for the building.

Other City projects continue to move forward, including Destination WG and plans for the new skate park and splash pad at Ivory Crockett Park.

Tax Levy

It was noted that Proposition L passed on August 4.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Audit Approval

The Board reviewed the annual audit and discussed two items identified in the management letter.

The first involved the Library's EIN. Some grant funding, state aid, and A&E funds had continued to be processed under the Library's previous shared EIN. It was determined that both EINs were in the State's system, but the old EIN was still being used for some payments. This issue has since been corrected.

The second item involved expenditures exceeding the approved budget. Ms. Morris, the Library's accountant, the Board Treasurer, and the Board currently review the Library's financials monthly. Moving forward, an additional quarterly budget review will be conducted to determine whether formal budget amendments or adjustments between line items are needed.

Mr. Scholl also reviewed the Library's fund balance and the approximately $446,000 decrease in reserves. The decrease was primarily attributable to major expenses, including the HVAC replacement, rather than regular day-to-day operating costs.

Mr. Scholl stated that, overall, the audit turned out well with no significant areas of concern identified by the auditors.

Ms. Coates moved to approve the audit as presented. Ms. Cooley seconded. All were in favor, and none were opposed.

Tax Levy Next Steps

Discussion was held regarding whether to retain the existing Tax Levy Committee or establish a new committee for the next phase of planning.

The Board decided to establish a new committee consisting of Ms. Coates, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Lloyd, and Ms. Cooley.

The committee will develop overall plans for the use of the new revenue and then assign specific areas to the appropriate existing Board committees for further review and work.

Conflict of Interest Ordinance – Missouri Ethics Commission

Ms. Morris stated that the Conflict of Interest Ordinance is reviewed and approved by the Board every other year.

Ms. Cooley noted that the document uses the word "he" in at least two places and recommended changing those references to gender-neutral language. Ms. Morris stated that the language could be revised accordingly.

Ms. Cooley moved to approve the document with the above changes. Ms. Taylor seconded. All were in favor.

Adjournment

Mr. Scholl moved to adjourn. Dr. Harris seconded. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.