WEBSTER GROVES
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of The Board of Trustees
Webster Groves Public Library
September 16, 2026

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16. President Anita Radcliffe presided, and Library Director Madison Morris kept the minutes. Also present: Trustees Janey Worthington, Lea Ann Coates, Jenine Harris, Dana Cooley, Sherry Taylor, Fred Toelle, and Alice Lloyd. Absent were Trustee Ed Scholl and City Council Liaison Emily Hixson Shepherd.

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

Public Comment

Mr. Rutt, a Webster Groves resident, expressed support for the Library. He requested additional information regarding anticipated levy revenues, planned expenditures, use of reserves, and long-term financial planning.

Minutes of the August 19, 2026 Meeting

Dr. Harris moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Lloyd seconded. All were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

Correspondence

None.

President's Report

Ms. Radcliffe thanked those who were able to attend the volunteer appreciation event held at the Library on August 21.

Librarian's Report

Ms. Morris reported on Library programming, highlighting the new Mahjong night held on the second Thursday of each month. She also noted that offering Babytime weekly rather than every other week has improved attendance and attracted new patrons to the Library. She mentioned that she hopes to move forward with partnerships with the Webster Groves School District and the St. Louis Repertory Theatre.

Advanced Planning

Dr. Harris stated that there was nothing new to report regarding advanced planning. She also announced that she had recently been appointed to the City of Webster Groves Planning Commission and intends to resign from the Library Board at the end of the year.

The Board discussed potential qualifications that would be beneficial in a new trustee appointed to fill Dr. Harris's position. It was suggested that someone with experience in architecture, engineering, or construction would be particularly valuable given the Library's upcoming building projects.

Building and Grounds

None.

Finance

Ms. Morris reported that August disbursements totaled $116,021.92, leaving a checking account balance of $267,652.64. She stated that funds would be transferred from the Library's investment account to its checking account in the coming weeks. Maintaining a higher checking account balance helps the Library avoid certain bank fees.

The Board discussed the "Delinquent" line item under the August tax revenues section of the financial report. It was clarified that this represents property taxes collected after their original due dates and subsequently distributed to the Library.

Ms. Morris reported that there were no unusual items of concern in the August financial report. Overall, expenditures for the month were approximately $3,000 above the projected budget, primarily due to higher-than-anticipated hourly staffing expenses. She noted that hourly staffing costs typically balance out over the course of the year, particularly as the Library enters the slower winter season.

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

Human Resources

Ms. Cooley reported that the Human Resources Committee had met immediately before the Board meeting. The committee is working to develop a pay scale for the Library. Members are reviewing market research and compensation at comparable libraries, with the goal of presenting a pay scale to the Board for review in the coming months.

Policy

Mr. Toelle stated that he would be attending a Sunshine Law webinar offered through the Missouri State Library in October. Ms. Morris said she would also be attending.

Friends Report

Ms. Taylor reported that the Friends of the Library approved two Library funding requests at their most recent meeting: $800 for Mahjong sets and board games to add to the Library of Things collection, and $600 to help fund the Library building's 75th anniversary celebration. She also announced that the Friends' book sale would take place October 16–18.

City Hall

None.

Tax Levy

See Tax Levy Next Steps under Old Business.

Old Business

Tax Levy Next Steps

Ms. Morris reported that she was working on preparing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for architectural and engineering services related to the Library's upcoming building projects. She stated that she planned to call a committee meeting in early October to discuss next steps.

New Business

Patron Survey

Ms. Morris presented the Board with a draft of the patron survey for review and feedback. She explained that the survey did not require a formal vote but that she wanted Board members to identify any questions or topics that might be missing or need revision.

The primary concern expressed was the overall length of the survey. There was discussion about removing the Summer Reading section and consolidating other sections to make the survey shorter and more accessible to patrons.

Save the Date – 75th Anniversary of the Building

Ms. Morris announced that the Library would celebrate the 75th anniversary of its building on Saturday, November 7. Children's crafts and activities will take place from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., followed by an anniversary celebration from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

December 26th Closing

Ms. Morris reminded the Board that it had approved closing the Library on December 26 the previous year on a trial basis. She reported that she was not aware of any negative feedback regarding the closure and asked whether the Board would consider making December 26 a

regularly observed Library holiday. She noted that the closure had originally been proposed because December 26 has historically been a day of low Library usage and can be difficult to staff.

Ms. Worthington moved to make December 26 a regular Library holiday. Dr. Harris seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed, and the motion passed.

Adjournment

Ms. Worthington moved to adjourn. Mr. Toelle seconded. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.