



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes - Final

Library Board.

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

4:30 PM
Mount Royal Branch Library; 105 Mt. Royal Shopping Circle;
Duluth, MN

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 PM by Bill Arezzo, President

Welcome and Introductions

Members present: Bill Arezzo, Sue Henke, Lori Steinbach, Ellen Hatfield, Jose Gonzalez, Carlee Bladl, Sarah Kessler, Michelle Foshay
Also in attendance: Library Manager Carla Powers, PPL Director Erik Birkeland, City Councilor Jordon Johnson, Arrowhead Library System Executive Director Mollie Stanford, ALS Finance and Administrative Services Manager Nikki Erickson

Review and Approve Agenda

Motion by Gonzalez, seconded by Henke, to approve agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Minutes of March 2026 meeting

Motion by Foshay, seconded by Bladl, to approve minutes as drafted. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Reports

[LB33](#)

Library Manager's Report April 2026

One Book Northland events will be happening in the Twin Ports throughout April. Library staff will have an all-ages escape room in April to test people's media literacy skills, challenging participants to spot deepfakes and misinformation. Staffing updates: with the hiring of a half-time Library Technician, the Mount Royal Branch is fully staffed again.

[LB35](#)

Library Usage Report February 2026

[LB36](#)

Friends of the Library Report April 2026

The Friends Board voted to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Duluth Library Foundation and the Friends.

Discussions continued about members taking a more active role in leadership positions.

[LB37](#)

Duluth Library Foundation Report April 2026

The Foundation finalized their board meeting schedule. They will meet every other month on the third Wednesday.

Old Business[LB15](#)

Safety Updates

The Michigan Street entry closure at the Main Library went into effect April 6. While it's recognized that accessibility is impacted by the closure, the decision was made in order to make the library safer and more welcoming for patrons. It's a best practice in library design to have only one point of entry to the building. Library staff will be monitoring any complaints and tracking safety incidents to help measure the impact of the closure.

[LB16](#)

Main Library facility/regional library services district

A study by MSR on the Arrowpointe facility is complete. City staff is seeking final approval from HUD on a congressionally-directed spending grant. The grant will fund a study that is meant to build on previous studies, exploring the potential for a regional library system, looking at library locations, and gathering public input. The first step will be to issue a Request for Proposals and secure one or more consultants to guide the work, which is expected to begin in mid to late summer.

[LB21](#)

Advocacy Update

No update

New Business[LB29](#)

Request for Reconsideration appeal

There was discussion about the patron appeal of the decision to retain the book The Truth About Hillary by Edward Klein in DPL's collection.

Motion by Foshay, seconded by Henke, to affirm the decision and keep the book. Motion passed unanimously.

[LB30](#) Council resolution to accept Arrowhead Library System reimbursement

Powers explained that this reimbursement, in the amount of \$47,002, is part of the library's budgeted revenue. A resolution to formally accept the funds will go to the City Council in May.

Motion by Foshay, seconded by Bladl, to approve the resolutions as drafted.

Motion passed unanimously.

[LB31](#) 2025 annual report

A few statistics were highlighted:

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Registered users increased, in part because Harbor City students now have Port Cards.

80% of cardholders are City of Duluth residents.

Circulation increased, partly due to instituting auto renewal for materials.

Reference transactions declined somewhat, which is a common trend in libraries.

Motion by Gonzalez, seconded by Steinbach, to approve the annual report.

Motion passed unanimously.

[LB32](#) Arrowhead Library System presentation

Mollie Stanford presented on the different types of library systems in Minnesota (consolidated and federated), as well as the services provided by the Arrowhead Library System for the seven counties in the region. She also touched on potential impacts of creating a new regional library system.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned: 6:27 pm

Next Meeting: May 5, 2026 Main Library Gold Room