

# AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

January 12, 2026; 4:30 pm

Chair Stephanie Postma called the regular meeting of the Austin Public Library Board to order at 4:30 p.m., on Monday, January 12, 2026, at the Austin Public Library.

**PRESENT:** Kristi Beckman, Lisa Ganser, Sue Grove, Ted Hinchcliffe, Nitaya Jandragholica, Jeff King, Stephanie Postma, Tim Rietz, Valerie Sheedy

**ALSO PRESENT:** Julie Clinefelter, Kris Olson, Jeff Austin

**AGENDA:** Valerie Sheedy moved to approve the agenda; Tim Rietz seconded. Motion carried.

## **MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Tim Rietz, seconded by Valerie Sheedy, to approve the December 8, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. Carried.

## **EXPENSES AND FINANCE REPORTS:**

A motion was made by Valerie Sheedy to approve expenditures and accept the finance reports for December 2025. Jeff King seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2026:**

A motion was made by Valerie Sheedy to retain the officers elected in 2025 (Stephanie Postma as chair, Kristi Beckman as Vice Chair, Sue Grove as secretary and Ted Hinchcliffe as treasurer). All officers accepted the nominations. Tim Rietz seconded the motion; motion carried and officers for 2026 were elected as noted.

## **POLICY REVIEW:**

Kristi Beckman moved to continue adoption of the ALA Library Bill of Rights and to approve the Library Board Job Description without changes; seconded by Jeff King. Motion carried.

## **WELCOME TO NEW BOARD MEMBER:**

The board extended a welcome to new member, Lisa Ganser, and introductions were exchanged.

**SELCO REPORT:** Valerie Sheedy noted SELCO hired a new network administrator. She advised much of the SELCO board's discussion has centered on distinguishing responsibilities of SELCO versus what the member libraries do.

## **LIAISON REPORTS:**

Jeff Austin noted the city has extended their contract with Dave Unmacht to help address the process of strategic plans and vision, as part of the *Workplace Culture and Organizational Development Study* for the City of Austin.

## **OPERATIONAL REPORT:**

Julie Clinefelter provided a written report prior to the board meeting, and reviewed the following items:

### **Staffing and Staff Development**

Julie reported Adult Services Librarian Courtney Schmitt will be starting a six-week program of professional development and coaching with consultant Julie Brunner, as part of the 2026 staff development focus. In addition, Julie shared information about and examples of work process documentation developed through the 2025 Implementation Plans. Library Assistant Kris Olson (who is also the circulation lead for staff) explained the purpose and supplementary documents that she coordinated with all members of the circulation staff, providing additional insight into the process and how the documents are being used to streamline tasks and assure consistency.

### **Networking**

Julie advised she met with the Albert Lea Library Director and one of SELCO's consultants to discuss regional issues and how the libraries are handling different issues. She also noted she attended the meet-and-greet event the City held to introduce the new Hormel CEO.

### **Programs and Advocacy**

Director Clinefelter updated the board on use of the Basic Needs Pantry, noting that over 17,000 personal care items have been given out, as well as a number of blankets.

Julie noted Library Legislative Day will be held on February 25, and she will attend if available. She noted one of the topics for focus this year is the high cost for libraries to purchase eBooks and eAudiobooks with very strict limits for use of those digital copies, and referenced legislation developed in other states that may encourage publishers to be more library-friendly in their purchasing structures.

**Administration and Procedures**

Julie provided materials the library has received to assist staff in preparation for potential visits from ICE officers. She noted staff has discussed what actions the library and staff can and cannot take, and advised that signs have been posted designating which areas of the library are public and which non-public (staff only).

**Facilities**

Julie reported the City installation of a new telephone system at the end of 2025, and the change has prompted a variety of technical issues in the library because different tech items are handled by different entities (City IT, SELCO, and multiple vendors). She advised it has been determined that the library tech closet needs work, including a new switch, that will cost approximately \$10,000, and will request that the city allows use of contingency funds for that project.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:** None.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Jeff King shared that he has accepted a new position with his employer, and will advise Julie if it presents any schedule conflicts with continuing to attend board meetings.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Kristi Beckman moved to adjourn at 5:15 p.m.; Lisa Ganser seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Grove, Board Secretary

**NEXT BOARD MEETING – Monday, February 9, 2026, 4:30 p.m.**