

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting for November 18, 2025

Location: Hybrid

Attendees: Maria McCauley, Carson McGrath, Michael Baenen, Irene Monroe, Risa Mednick, Liz Werby, Christine Quirion and Jim Roosevelt.

1. **Public Comment:** None

2. **Innovation & Technology Overview** with Christine Quirion

Manager of Innovation and Technology Christine Quirion provided an overview of her department to the Trustees. Prior to starting her role at the Cambridge Public Library in March, Christine worked in academic libraries for over twenty years including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Boston University. Her department's responsibilities include IT support and digital equity work. They also oversee the Library's STEAM initiatives and operate The Hive. Much of the work her team does is patron facing and space based, which includes visits to all Branches, bringing STEAM on the road to community events, and more.

Christine shared recent department highlights including the digital equity team surpassing 500 tech help sessions in partnership with the City's Digital Navigator program, the STEAM team deploying a Gif o Graf stop motion animation machine for use in The Hive and Branches and implementing PITs incident management software for all staff members. Lastly, she shared some items on the horizon for her team. The department will continue device replacement with City IT, refresh laptops and Hotspots available for loan to patrons, and implement a Tech Help Ambassador training for staff.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Jim Roosevelt opened the floor for corrections or comments to the minutes from October 14, 2025. No corrections were made, and the minutes passed unanimously.

4. Library Updates

Director Maria McCauley provided the Trustees with Library updates including on recent library related legislative activity in the Commonwealth, updates on the budget, recent programs and events and more.

Director McCauley participated in testimony for the School Library Standards Bill in November. The bill aims to establish comprehensive guidelines for school library programs and would also mandate a study every three years to examine implementation, school librarian employment, library programs, etc.

The Massachusetts Senate passed the Freedom to Read bill that sets statewide rules for removing materials from school libraries. The bill will move to the House for approval before being sent to Governor Maura Healy.

Director McCauley stated that heading into the FY27 budget process, the City of Cambridge is seeking to identify \$12 million in savings or new revenues to help maintain a strong financial foundation. Each department, including the Library, has been asked to identify targeted savings of about 2.1%. This is around \$327,919 for the Library.

In October, the Library hosted 483 programs across all locations, reaching almost 9,000 patrons. The Adult Services Team held a retreat for elders with a focus on mediation and renewal; 40 patrons attended the program. The Boudreau Branch's November Book Club met to discuss *James* by Percival Everett. The event was the most attended book club in recent memory. The Central Square Branch continued their partnership with The Spot and held a Shop for Free event with over 50 people. Due to the increase of young patrons, the Collins Branch added a monthly Baby Lapsit program. The O'Connell Branch served as a polling location on Election Day. Through the O'Neill Branch, the Kids' Zine Collective tabled and presented a workshop at the Watertown Zine Fest. The Valente Branch held a reopening party on October 22 and hosted 300 patrons. The Collection Services team is close to launching the Library's new Phonics Collection at all locations. The STEAM team partnered with the Harvard Art Museum to offer two programs pairing the exhibited artwork of Edna Andrade with stop motion animation. Members of the Borrower Services team participated in outreach at the Harvard Square Kiosk and the Boston Book Festival. The furniture order to upgrade staff and public seating at all Library locations was completed.

Lastly, Maria noted on behalf of the American Library Association, she recently attended the Sharjah International Book Fair in the United Arab Emirates. She was able to meet librarians from all across the world and connect on their support for libraries.