

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting for October 14, 2025

Location: Hybrid

Attendees: Maria McCauley, Carson McGrath, Michael Baenen, Irene Monroe, Risa Mednick, Karen Kosko and Jim Roosevelt.

Guests: Luke and Catiana.

1. Public Comment: None

2. Summer Reading Overview with Meagan Albright

Manager of Youth Services Meagan Albright shared an overview of the 2025 Summer Reading program. She explained Summer Reading is an invitation to the community to celebrate reading at any age. This year, every participant received a bingo board, depending on their age, which was filled with reading prompts. There were four bingo board options: early childhood, school-age, teen and adult. Several prizes were offered for participation including colored pencils, color pages and crayons for registering, while bingo completion rewards included mini-sharpies, sticker sheets, and branded canvas pouches. Over 4,300 community members participated in Summer Reading in 2025, with 40.2% of participants in the school age category. Staff provided positive feedback on the Summer Reading program this year with one staff member stating out of their 15 summers at CPL, this summer was the most seamless for patrons and staff. Lastly, Meagan noted as part of the program, staff also hosted over 700 special events including Wild Kits Hoops, Dinoman!, and Friday crafts.

The Trustees expressed gratitude for the informative presentation.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chair Jim Roosevelt opened the floor for corrections or comments to the minutes from September 9, 2025. No corrections were made, and the minutes passed unanimously.

4. Library Updates

Director Maria McCauley provided the Trustees with recent Library updates including new hires, programs, and events. The Library welcomed a new Human Resources Coordinator to the team, Tuan Le, at the end of September. The Adult Services department held 54 programs with over 790 attendees. Older Adult programming continues to be popular, including the virtual events Aging with Mindfulness and Estate Planning. The Collins and Boudreau Branches held a joint cookbook club event with 28 attendees. This fall, the Central Square Branch is partnering with The Spot for free clothing and supply giveaways. Over 150 people attended the most recent event. Staff from the O'Connell and Valente Branches represented the Library at East Cambridge's annual Ribfest on September 28. Staff interacted with over 80 attendees at the event. O'Neill Branch staff started their story time visits to four new classrooms in the Alewife DHSP Preschool building. The Collection Services team had a busy month receiving new September and October releases to the Library, as well as celebrating Banned Books Week with book displays, giveaways and unique programs. The Digital Equity team held a new class focused on digital literacy to improve skills in navigating websites. The session covered effective search strategies, tips and tricks for exploring online content and more. The Library hosted several authors with newly released books including Elaine Castillo, author of *Moderation* and Alejandro Varela, author of *Middle Spoon*. With funding from the Cambridge Public Library Foundation, The Hive updated their virtual reality headset system, including adding a number of new VR games and programs. The Library is participating in Welcome Baby Boxes for New Parents. This participatory-budget project offers the opportunity for families to receive useful items for babies and their caregivers, including the chance to register for CPL 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten. Families receive their first gift (tote bag, book, brochure) and are encouraged to visit their local branch. The Borrower Services team participated in local outreach at the Harvard Kennedy School where they made over 100 new library cards.

Lastly, Director McCauley shared a few save the dates and spoke on a recent speaking engagement. She visited the Canton Public Library during Banned Books Week to touch on intellectual freedom and censorship.