

## **Minutes**

### **Board of Trustees Meeting for September 9, 2025**

**Location: Hybrid**

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

**Guests:** Marc Levy and Caleb Johnson.

1. **Public Comment:** None

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Jim Roosevelt opened the floor for corrections or comments to the minutes from May 6, 2025. No corrections were made, and the minutes passed unanimously.

3. **FY25 Goals Update**

Director Maria McCauley provided updates on the status of the Cambridge Public Library's Fiscal Year 2025 goals. The Library's strategic goals support the strategic framework and overall City priorities. In FY25, the Library continued to offer a robust slate of programming and services across all branches with 1,009,376 patron visits and a total circulation of 1,987,469. Due to the collaboration across departments, the Library rolled out its new website in July 2024 and has received over 2.5 million visits since the launch. The Library's Social Worker has been in his role for six months and is now meeting regularly with 41 different patrons by appointment. With a focus on digital equity, the Library deepened this work through the digital navigation program with over 245 sessions held for tech assistance for community members.

Members of Library staff participated in community outreach as well, including at the Alewife MBTA station, the Central Square Farmers Market, and InmanWeen. The Library cultivated its ongoing relationships with vital community partners such as Cambridge Community Television, Just A Start, and the Cambridge Black History Project. The recruitment and hiring process continues to scale up with partnerships with City organizations to promote Library jobs as well as the development of career pipelines for high school students to work in libraries including the hiring of Pages and welcoming a cohort of students this past summer in the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program. Through its equity and inclusion committee, the Library also incorporated an emphasis on the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion as part of onboarding. Preliminary planning for a Strategic Framework revamp was started, including the forming of a Strategic Planning Committee.

Within its maintenance and capital work, the Library finished improvements to the Lewis Room at the Central Square Branch, completed the Collins Branch envelope repair, and constructed an all-gender bathroom at the Main Library. In terms of Board work, the Library onboarded a new Trustee and explored a merger between the Cambridge Public Library Foundation and Friends of the Cambridge Public Library. Based on discussion, the two groups landed on a Two-Lane approach. The Library held various staff trainings and development opportunities including an overview on the new CPLSA contract. Lastly, Director McCauley shared a few experiences from recent patrons who expressed positive feedback of the Library's program and services, including one patron who received crucial tech assistance. The Board of Trustees shared questions on the updates.

#### 4. **Library Updates**

Director McCauley provided brief updates on recent programs held across the branches and facilities work. The Portuguese youth titles were moved to the Main Library while the Valente Branch remains closed thanks to a team effort of staff. The collection will be returned to Valente prior to its opening. A contract was hired to complete a HVAC project at the O'Neill Branch. The Summer Reading program was a success with over 4,000 patrons registered this year. The Adult Services team added the American Repertory Theater to their museum pass line up. Central Square and Main staff participated in monthly outreach to the Central Square Farmers Market, while Collins welcomed over 200 people at its Grand Reopening Party in June. Circulation increased at the O'Connell Branch in July and August as compared to 2024. O'Neill staff held 59 camp visits over the course of the summer, and Valente hosted a Capoeira program with 22 participants. Thanks to the Collection Services team, the Library added new Chinese, Korean and Arabic titles to the collection. The Library's Social Worker is now offering support group programming, including a Monday Mediation. The Borrower Services department welcomed two new part-time clerks over the summer.

Director McCauley also provided national updates on libraries, which included sharing the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners has received funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services again, a significant recovering in funding support of library services. Lastly, Director McCauley shared a few upcoming programs including the next upcoming Meditation Monday program on September 15 and a Book Brunch at Central Square on September 20 at 12:00 pm

In Jim's absence, Michael raised a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was unanimously agreed upon.