

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting for June 9, 2026

Location: Hybrid

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

Guests: Regis Shields and Cathy Chute.

1. Public Comment: None

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Jim Roosevelt opened the floor for corrections or comments to the minutes from May 26, 2026. No corrections were made, and the minutes passed unanimously.

3. Strategic Planning

Director Maria McCauley and Deputy Director Joy Kim provided an update on the strategic planning process including early finding from the community engagement initiatives and next steps. As part of the strategic planning process, over 2,100 people completed a community survey and over 300 attended community chats to provide input for the new strategic framework. Starting in the spring, the Steering Committee reviewed the insights identified from the data. A landscape scan of the Library and City data, as well as regional and national trends in public service was completed. Staff were provided with an update on findings in late May. Some of the early findings from community and staff engagement showcased that the Library is a beloved institution and receives high service satisfaction from a wide range of community members for providing high-quality collections, services and attentive, helpful staff. Other insights include the high demand for STEAM programs, a desire for more hours, and the enjoyment of visiting neighborhood branches.

The updated strategic framework is currently being drafted and will be brought to the Trustees for approval in the early fall. Director McCauley and Deputy Director Kim opened the floor for questions.

4. Library Updates

Director McCauley provided brief library updates on recent programs and events. She thanked the members of the Trustees who were able to attend lunch during the Library's annual Staff Development Day. This annual event is for staff across all branches to gather for activities, learning sessions, training and department updates. Maria acknowledged the hard work and creativity that went into planning the day spearheaded by the Staff Development Day Committee. Massages were available for staff from Boston Chair Massage, staff shared department share-outs, a few sessions included a still-life drawing lesson, a mending workshop, and a Cambridge Retirement Board info session.

The Friends held their biennial Secret Garden Tour fundraiser event on June 7. It was a record year for the event; the Friends raised over \$50,000 and sold 1,700 tickets. Thank you to the Friends for providing the community with the opportunity to participate in this unique event while supporting CPL.

The annual Youth Poetry Awards were held on June 2. It is an inspiring event and a treat to hear from many talented, young poets. A huge team of dedicated Library staff make this event possible. The space was completely packed with families, community members and young writers.

Manager of Borrower Services Jane Philbrick shared her summer reading book recommendations on WGBH recently, ranging from a Southern multi-generational family saga to a time-spanning tale about a Wyoming ghost town. Summer reading kicks off June 20 with a celebratory event at the Main Library.

Maria shared excitement for the upcoming American Library Association conference at the end of June where she will be inaugurated as the 2026 – 2027 president of the organization.

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 pm.