

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting for May 26, 2026

Location: Hybrid

Attendees: Maria McCauley, Jim Roosevelt, Michael Baenen, Liz Werby, Karen Kosko, Risa Mednick, Elizabeth Edwards, and Carson McGrath.

Guests: Clara Angelina Diaz-Anderson

1. **Public Comment:** None

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Jim Roosevelt opened the floor for corrections or comments to the minutes from March 3, 2026. The group indicated Trustee Liz Werby was noted twice as an attendee. Executive Assistant Carson McGrath made the correction. The minutes passed.

3. **Library Updates**

Director McCauley provided library updates on the Fiscal Year 2027 proposed budget, the digital navigator program, recent programs and events, and her American Library Association president-elect travels and speaking engagements. On May 12, the Library participated in a budget hearing with the City. The Library also recently presented an update on digital equity and the digital navigator program to the City Council in May. Cambridge residents have had access to digital navigators through a pilot program funded with regional and municipal ARPA funding since June 2024.

On Tuesday, May 26, Maria participated in a panel hosted at the MIT Media Lab in honor of the 30th anniversary of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. There was a keynote from Senator Ed Markey, and the panel was moderated by former Federal Communications Commission Chairwoman and Executive Director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Lab Jessica Rosenworcel. Director McCauley spoke on the progress made in digital connectivity, especially in libraries, E-Rate and digital literacy programming. She also recently presented a keynote address at the Massachusetts Library Association's annual conference and visited the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Maria shared that Summer Reading registration starts on Monday, June 1. Summer Reading is the Library's annual community invitation to celebrate reading for all ages. Patrons can pick up their Summer Reading bingo boards filled with fun reading prompts at their local branch.

The Central Square Branch established a new partnership with the Cambridge Zen Center to offer biweekly meditation sessions. The O'Neill team partnered with the Peabody School to introduce second grade students to the Library's Gif-o-graf stop-motion machines. The group made short stop-motion movies about book genres. The Collection Services team completed another round of Intellectual Freedom training for eight newly trained employees. On Wednesday, May 20, the Main Library hosted 2026 Pulitzer Prize winner Yiyun Li. She participated in a reading and discussion of her memoir *Things in Nature Merely Grow*. In partnership with the City's Department of Public Works, Conservation Commission and Cambridge Garden Club, the Library hosted two seminars on pollinator gardens on April 7th, and May 13th. These programs are the first of a series promoting local pollinators and the establishment of future pollinator gardens across Library locations. The Youth Services team held two courses for parents and caregivers on CPR funded by the Cambridge Public Library Foundation. Mayor Siddiqui visited the Main library for a story time on May 19. Maria provided a huge congratulations to Assistant Manager Francesca Edouard on receiving the City's Outstanding Employee Award. Lastly, Maria shared she participated in a webinar hosted by the Foundation to discuss her ALA presidency and her work at the Library.

4. ALA Presidency

Director McCauley presented a draft of her keynote for her upcoming presidency year. Trustees, Elizabeth and Clara provided feedback.