

MASCOUTAH PUBLIC LIBRARY
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MAY 19, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Mascoutah Public Library held its regular meeting at the library on May 19, 2026, at 6:15 p.m.

Call to Order

Trustees present and constituting a quorum were Nancy Larson, Scot Erickson, Frank Bandre, Wayne Wilhelm, Kay Connolly and Suzy Friederich; absent were Casey Hoercher, Merly Friedland and Jordan Rehfeldt. Also present was Library Director Joel Pikora.

President Nancy Larson presided and Wayne Wilhelm recorded the minutes.

Additions to Agenda – Water leak in Meeting Room

Public Comments – None

Minutes

The minutes of the regular board meeting held on March 17, 2026, were unavailable for review.

Financial Report: Frank presented the Balance Sheet as of April 30, 2026, see report. It was noted that building and maintenance repairs were much higher than normal due to repair work at the children's area. In summary, we continue to have a positive cash flow and a healthy balance sheet to meet operating needs and contingencies.

The Board unanimously approved the above financial reports and ordered that the same be filed for audit.
(Motion by Scot, second by Kay)

Committee Reports

The Building Committee met on May 6, 2026. It reviewed several quotes from multiple vendors regarding lawn service, gutter service and carpet cleaning.

Committee recommended Reyes Landscaping & Lawn Service for both lawn service and gutter service. Reyes Landscaping was only vendor to bid on both requests. Furthermore, Mascoutah Public Library uses Reyes Landscaping for snow removal.

The Board approved, by unanimous voice vote, the recommendation of the Building Committee to accept Estimates 001276-001278 for lawn service (\$125/weekly), shrubs (\$475/service) and gutter service (\$275/service). *(Motion recommended by committee approval)*

Second, committee recommended Absolute Clean for MPL carpet cleaning. Absolute Clean was lowest bid plus the company cleaned carpet in Children's Room after water damage.

The Board approved, by unanimous voice vote, the recommendation of the Building Committee to accept the Estimate 2991 for \$1,821.76. *(Motion recommended by committee approval)*

Director's Report

Please refer to the Director's detailed written report for the May 2026 Board Meeting relating to operations and activities since the last meeting, the comparative Library Circulation Report for MAR-APR 2025 vs. 2026 as well as Non-Resident Registrations for FY 2025-26.

ILA Executive Board: Joel announced that even though he did not win election to ILA Executive Board, he was appointed to serve the remaining two years of Leander Spearman's term after Leander's selection as ILA President Elect.

House Bill 5236: With ILA's determined efforts for the Digital Library Protection Act, HB5236 passed the Illinois House with a unanimous vote (99-0) in favor of the bill. The bill has been sent to Illinois Senate for legal review. No further action is expected over the summer.

Circulation Clerk(s): MPL hired the filled the first of two circulation clerk positions. Training for the new hire began on May 18, 2026. Joel is hoping to have the second circulation clerk hired soon.

Summer Reading Overview: The theme this year is "Plant a Seed, Read." MPL will kickoff Summer Reading Program with traditional Foam Party at Scheve Park on June 6, 2026, from 10 am - Noon. Patrons can register for program using Beanstack. Summer Reading Program runs June 1, 2026-July 31, 2026.

Old Business

Board Officers and Committees – The assignments for 2026-2027 reviewed.

Board unanimously approved the above MPL Officers and Standing Committees. *(Motion by Wayne, second by Scot)*

Community Website Proposal – A joint venture between Mascoutah Public Library and the Mascoutah Chamber of Commerce discussed.

Board unanimously approved the above proposal. *(Motion by Suzy, second by Frank)*

New Business

Joel presented information for health insurance renewal. Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield Platinum plan will increase by ca. 22.5%. The BCBS Gold Plan and two United HealthCare Plans offered for comparison. After discussing the pros and cons for both expense on MPL and impact on staff, the board members decided to renew current plan for FY26-27.

The Board unanimously approved the above motion to remain with Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield Platinum Plan.

(Motion by Wayne, second by Frank)

Discussion

Joel alerted the Board that water leaked into meeting room, near camera after a massive storm system swept through St. Louis region on May 18. He will monitor situation.

Suzy offered kudos to Sam Ullery and her performance since Ivy Cowen departed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Nancy declared the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m. The next meeting will be at the Library on August 18, 2026, at 6:15 p.m.

Prepared by: Wayne Wilhelm, Trustee