

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Minutes of April 16, 2026

I. OPENING OF MEETING

Meeting called to order @ 7:00 p.m. by President Deborah Smith.

Present:, Laurinda Hardy, Karie Sheils, Carolyn Clark, Patti Hopkins, Bill Poletti, Deborah Smith,

Absent: Linda Spencer, Rochelle Hobson, Donna Bullock

Additions to Agenda:

- Friends will receive a “Friends tote bag” as a thank you for their work with the Booksale
- “There’s a T-Rex in My Closet” local author Kerry Nenn read her book at storytime

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of March 19, 2026 Library Board Meeting Minutes

Motion #1 (Karie Sheils/Laurinda Hardy) Approve March 19, 2026 Library Board Meeting Minutes. **Motion passed by consensus.**

B. Library Directors Report (Written Report)

Ashlee and Melissa attended two outreach events at local schools

Library Director organized a Zoom call with local state representatives regarding HB5236

City budget process has been completed and approved

III. APPROVAL OF ALL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, REPORTS AND BILL LIST

Motion #2 (Karie Sheils/Bill Poletti) Approve March 2026 financial statements, reports and bill list.

Roll Call Vote: Patti Hopkins yes; Laurinda Hardy yes; Karie Sheils yes; Deborah Smith yes; Carolyn Clark yes; Bill Poletti yes. **Motion Passed**

IV. COMMUNICATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

NONE

V. CITIZENS COMMENTS (None)

VI. ILLINOIS HEARTLAND LIBRARY SYSTEM REPORT (None)

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. **Finance (None)** Meeting in May for FY year end requirements. Most likely 5/18 or 19

B. **PERSONNEL**

C. **Policy (None)**

VIII. SPECIAL COMMITTEES (None)

IX. BUSINESS

A. Discussion on library closure May 4-9 for flooring replacement

The library will be closed from May 4-9 to replace carpet and flooring damaged when the hot water heater failed in June 2025. All staff will continue working their full schedule.

Three training have been scheduled for staff: Narcan, cybersecurity and neurodiversity sensitivity. Staff will help with décor for Summer Reading Club as well as other programming prep needed. We will continue to receive new material and process items as well as send out delivery. No items coming into the library will be checked in until May 11. The public have been informed via social media as well as “in house” promotion. Our website has a special section on details for the closure that also are linked in the social media posts.

B. Discussion on grant application funded by the Illinois State Library for security enhancements at the library

The library director submitted a grant application to the Illinois State Library on 4/14/26 for security enhancements at the library that focus on access control via an intrusion detection system and keyless entry. The grant total was \$51,000 for work that was quoted via an onsite visit. Due to the delay in approval of the grant and receipt of funds it would be expected that the final amount of the work to be performed may be higher and any needed additional funds would require library board financial support. This is all pending an award of the grant as written which is estimated to be announced in June 2026.

C. Discussion on the statement of economic interest

The library director wanted to check in with all board members on the status of their statement of economic interest due to St. Clair County by May 1. Board members were encouraged to ask questions concerning the form and the library director would facilitate providing answers.

D. Discussion and update on Illinois HB 5236: Digital Library Protection Act

The library director provided an update on the status of HB 5236. On April 1, the library director met with several area Illinois House Representatives via Zoom to educate them on the issues surrounding HB 5236. The library director showed the presentation the legislators viewed as a way to further educate board members on the issue. A vote in the House of Representatives was due on 4/17/26. If successful, it would move to the Illinois House Senate for a vote in those chambers due by the end of May.

X. CLOSED SESSION

XI. ADJOURNMENT 7:37 p.m. CONSENSUS

Respectfully submitted by,

Laurinda Hardy, Library Board Trustee