Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Springfield City Library Board of Commissioners

Place:	Zoom Meeting
Date:	April 8, 2026
Attending:	Stephen Cary, Meghan Lunghi, Krysta Fyntrilakis, Matthew Reilly, Rachel Sanders, David Maynard, Tim Moriarty
Absent:	
Staff:	Molly Fogarty, Library Director Jean Canosa Albano, Assistant Director Khristy Lord, Business Manager Jamillah Medina Nova, Community Relations Coordinator Mary Frederick, Manager of IT
Call to order:	Meeting called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Commissioner Cary

1. Presentation: Rebecca Lartigue, Friends of Springfield Library

Rebecca Lartigue introduced herself as a member of the Friends of the Springfield Library Board and shared that she joined while in college and has been involved for several years.
Commissioner Moriarty asked what differentiates the Friends from the Foundation and how that distinction can be made clear to the public.
Rebecca Lartigue explained that the Friends focus on community building and generating excitement about the library, while the Foundation focuses on longer-term goals.
There were multiple expressions of support from Commissioners regarding the Friends group.
Commissioner Fyntrilakis asked about membership dues.
Commissioner Matthew Reilly asked how to get people involved and what the benefits are for participants.
There was discussion regarding the structure and operational functions of the Friends group, noting that the organization is newly formed with approximately eight members who began work three months ago.
Discussion included potential fundraising efforts such as an annual campaign, in-person tabling, and increasing social media presence.
Commissioner Cary suggested tabling efforts and branded materials such as tote bags and bumper stickers.
Ms. Lartigue confirmed that these efforts are being implemented immediately and that branded items will follow after a logo redesign.
Ms. Lartigue noted that Friends meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month.

ALL YOURS SPRINGFIELD CITY LIBRARY JUST ASK

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2. Approval of Minutes from the February 4 and March 4, 2026 Library Commission Meeting	Commissioner Moriarty moved to accept the February minutes as written. Commissioner Lunghi seconded the motion. All in Favor. Minutes Passed & Approved. Commissioner Fyntrilakis moved to accept the March minutes as written. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. All in Favor. Minutes Passed & Approved.
3. Commission Committee Reports	
4. Chairman's Report	Commissioner Stephen Cary provided updates for the Commission & Chairman report simultaneously. He shared that he spoke with Kathy Brown regarding fundraising efforts for the East Springfield Branch and discussed an idea for the Foundation to create a photograph of the current and future library with handwritten notes on the back to help generate conversation, inform the public, and engage the neighborhood. Commissioner Stephen Cary announced that a press conference would take place on Monday, April 13 at 2:00 PM at the East Springfield Branch with Congressman Richard Neal and Mayor Domenic Sarno to announce a $500,000 earmark. He also discussed the Library of Things and noted that a thank-you letter was sent to the Department of Public Works for their donation. He expressed interest in collaborating with Jamillah Medina Nova to capture the delivery and highlight it on social media. David Maynard asked about social media specifically related to the East Springfield Branch and whether it should exist as a standalone presence. Jamillah Medina Nova responded that it should not operate as a separate account but could be developed as a content series to document the project while maintaining the library's unified audience.
5. Computer Use and Internet Safety Policy Revision Vote	Commissioner Tim Moriarty moved to accept the proposed changes. Commissioner David Maynard seconded the motion. All Commissioners were in favor, and the motion passed.
6. Director's Report	Director Fogarty reported that on March 5, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approved a $6 million grant, with eligibility for an additional $200,000 through the Green Library program, bringing the total project funding to $12 million. She stated that the City's Finance Department has bonded for the full $12 million. Director Fogarty noted that a City Council meeting is scheduled for April 13 to vote on bond authorization. She explained that due to a pause on new contracts between April 30 and July, efforts were made to ensure the item was placed on the agenda in advance.

	Commissioner Fyntrilakis asked about the project timeline. Director Fogarty stated that groundbreaking is anticipated in approximately one year, with completion projected for 2028. Director Fogarty provided an update on strategic planning, noting that an ad hoc committee will be formed to develop action items aligned with the four priority areas. The goal is to present the plan at the June meeting, followed by quarterly progress reports. She reported attending the March 10 Capital Improvement meeting, where departments were asked to identify their top three priorities. The Library's priorities included the East Springfield Branch, Central Library HVAC, elevator replacements, and carpeting replacements at Central Library, Brightwood, Mason Square, and Forest Park. There was discussion regarding carpeting needs across branches. Director Fogarty also reported that a meeting with Mayor Domenic Sarno on March 20 went well and included collaboration with Elder Affairs. She noted participation in Public Health Month, including involvement in a large community health fair. Jamillah Medina Nova provided outreach updates and included a blanket invitation to all commissioners to attend upcoming events. Commissioner Maynard referenced upcoming community events, including the Mattoon Street Arts Festival and the Caribbean Festival, and discussed reactivating art initiatives and programming at the Central Library.
7. New/ Other Business-	
8. Public Comment	A public inquiry was made by an attending guest. He gave anecdote about his use of the library and then questioned who decides which books get "thrown out" and how the process is handled. Assistant Director Canosa Albano gave a thorough answer which included the entire collection development policy and procedure.
9. Executive Session	Not Needed
10. Adjournment	**6:54PM**

_____, *Secretary*