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

Place:	Zoom
Date:	November 4, 2026
Attending:	Stephen Cary, Matthew Reilly, Meghan Lunghi,
Absent:	Tim Moriarty, David Maynard, Krysta Fyntrilakis
Staff:	Molly Fogarty, Library Director Jean Canosa Albano, Assistant Director Khristy Lord, Business Manager Jamillah Medina Nova, Community Relations Coordinator Sarah Hodge-Wetherbe, Teen Services Librarian Apollo Uhlenbruck, Children's Librarian
Call to order:	Meeting called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Commissioner Cary

1. Presentation: Sarah Hodge-Wetherbe, Teen Services Librarian and Apollo Uhlenbruck, Children's Librarian.

Blaise Kyrios, Collection Development Manager, presented the updated Collection Development Policy Draft for 2026–2030 and discussed its alignment with the Library's new Strategic Plan.

Collections Development Manager Kyrios explained that the updated policy reflects the Library's mission, vision, and values, with an emphasis on serving Springfield's diverse neighborhoods through materials in various formats and languages, accessibility, and a broad range of perspectives.

The policy also emphasizes maintaining and evaluating existing collections, including reviewing usage, relevance, and outdated materials to make effective use of available space and funding. Updates address digital resources, including e-books, streaming services, databases, and other online materials, while maintaining collection principles that can adapt to changing technology.

Collection Development Manager Kyrios reviewed updates to the Library's intellectual freedom language and the Request for Reconsideration process. The revised policy clarifies that including materials in the collection does not indicate Library endorsement of their content. Requests for reconsideration are limited to Springfield residents, require a separate submission for each item, and are limited to three items per calendar year.

Commissioners discussed the Library's collection maintenance and weeding process, as well as how patrons can request materials for purchase. Requests

	can be submitted through the Library's website or internally by library staff on behalf of patrons. Commissioner Tim Moriarty emphasized the importance of a Master of Library Science degree for the Library Director and Collection Development Manager positions. He also suggested revising language regarding the Library's role in relation to parental responsibilities to be more positive, while acknowledging that the existing wording may be based on legal recommendations. Commissioner Moriarty asked about replacing materials that are removed by individuals who disagree with their content. It was explained that funding is available to reorder materials and that this has not been a significant issue locally. Commissioner Stephen Cary asked about replacing damaged materials. Assistant Director Canosa Albano explained that replacement is covered under Borrowers Services and provided additional information about the process. Commissioner Moriarty asked about updates to the Request for Reconsideration form. Changes included revised formatting, additional information about the process and next steps, and updated rules on the first page. Further discussion included adding the Library's email address for digital submissions, improving spacing and formatting, requesting proof of Springfield residency near the signature and date fields, and correcting the Commission's title. Commissioners also discussed the importance of maintaining a diverse collection that represents a broad range of perspectives. Commissioner Meghan Lunghi moved to approve the Collection Development Policy revisions. Commissioner Tim Moriarty seconded the motion. All Commissioners were in favor, and the motion passed.
2. Approval of draft Minutes from the October 7, 2026 Library Commission Meeting,	No Quorum
3. Commission Committee Reports	No Commission Committee Reports were recorded.
4. Chairman's Report	Commissioner Stephen Cary discussed the recent staff breakfast hosted by the Springfield Library Foundation and encouraged Commissioners to attend future events when possible- thanking Commissioner Tim Moriarty for his attendance. Positive feedback was shared about the event, including the great opportunities for staff conversations and a presentation by Elizabeth Roman from New England Public Media.

Commissioner Cary expressed interest in hearing from someone who discovered the Library later in life and learning about their experience.

5. Director's Report

Director Molly Fogarty discussed the recent staff event, including the human bingo activity. Commissioner Tim Moriarty offered positive feedback about the event.

East Springfield Branch Project

Director Fogarty provided an update on the East Springfield Branch project. The next meeting with the architects is scheduled for Friday, October 9, at 11:00 AM, when updated cost estimates will be reviewed. Construction documents will follow, and the project remains on track for groundbreaking in Spring 2027.

Director Fogarty reported that the Springfield Library Foundation launched its capital campaign on September 15 with a press conference at the East Springfield Branch, including a $50,000 contribution from Beacon Bank. Additional donations have been received, and more fundraising events are planned.

A campaign brochure is being finalized for distribution to households this fall.

State Aid and Annual Action Plan

Director Fogarty thanked Ms. Lord for completing the FY 27 Mass Board of Library Commissioners State Aid Report which will result in an award of $614,847.

Director Fogarty provided updates on the Annual Action Plan and its implementation across departments.

Communications: Jamillah Medina Nova, Community Relations Coordinator, provided an update on the communications plan. She explained plans to create a social media "Street team" with volunteers of staff interested in creating content to tell stories of the library, it's users & important brand messaging. Commissioner Stephen Cary expressed support for the development of a staff street team to gather input and representation from across the Library system.

It was also noted that Focus Springfield is willing to provide Final Cut Pro training using the computer located in the Teen Services area.

Infrastructure: Khristy Lord, Business Manager, provided an update on infrastructure improvements. She reported that Library Maintenance Supervisors, Tom Daly and Ruben Sanchez have completed several projects over the summer. Mr. Sanchez was hired to replace Mr. Stefanik who retired.

A significant accomplishment was cleaning and organizing the Mason Square garage, which provides storage for all branches and now has enough space to

	park two vehicles. Organizational improvements are ongoing, and a staff meeting was held earlier that day to identify additional projects and details. **Community Resources:** Director Fogarty reviewed a section of the Annual Action Plan focused on connecting neighborhoods with resources. **Programming Budgets:** Ms. Lord discussed the development of programming sub-budgets to distribute funding more equitably across the Library system. Ms. Lord and Ms. Gravel reviewed budget information and statistics to establish appropriate allocations and provide staff with a framework for programming expenses. Several procedures were also updated to support these changes. Commissioner Meghan Lunghi asked whether programs would still need to go through an approval process. It was explained that programming teams have designated team leads and that proposed programs are reviewed through the Programming and Training team. Commissioner Tim Moriarty complimented the process and discussed the importance of allowing funding for new programs that may not yet have established participation numbers. Commissioner Matthew Reilly also expressed support for the new process. **Additional Updates:** The Library received a grant in the amount of $18,300 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council for organizational support. Maggie Keane, Programming and Training Librarian, will send an email to staff requesting input on the types of training they would like to receive.
6. New/ Other Business-	It was noted that Library Commission meetings will be held virtually via Zoom from November through March.
7. Public Comment	No public comments were recorded.
8. Executive Session	Not Needed
9. Adjournment	**6:10 PM**

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, *Secretary*