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

Place:	Central Library Community Room
Date:	September 9, 2026
Attending:	Stephen Cary, Tim Moriarty, Meghan Lunghi, David Maynard, Krysta Fyntrilakis, Matthew Reilly
Absent:	
Staff:	Molly Fogarty, Library Director Jean Canosa Albano, Assistant Director Khristy Lord, Business Manager Jamillah Medina Nova, Community Relations Coordinator Ignacio Mendez, Manager- Brightwood and Indian Orchard Branches
Call to order:	Meeting called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Commissioner Cary

1. Presentation: Ignacio Mendez, Manager- Brightwood and Indian Orchard Branches

Ignacio Mendez, Manager of the Brightwood and Indian Orchard Branches, introduced himself as new to the position and provided an overview of outreach and programming at both branches.

Mr. Mendez discussed recent outreach to local schools, including Chestnut and TAG, and credited library promotional materials with helping staff connect with the community. He emphasized the importance of outreach and seeking new ways to connect with residents. He has been meeting with schools and identifying their needs related to library services and resources.

Mr. Mendez discussed programming at the Indian Orchard Branch, with a focus on children and seniors. Upcoming Brightwood Branch programming includes a September 26 event, Dungeons & Dragons, Knot Just Knitters, and a Mi Gente genealogy program presented in Spanish.

Commissioner Tim Moriarty asked about the percentage of English-speaking patrons compared with patrons who speak other languages at Brightwood. Mr. Mendez reported seeing approximately a 50/50 split, including within individual families.

Commissioner Meghan Lunghi asked how he divides his time between the two branches. Mr. Mendez stated that he tries to divide his time evenly but has recently spent more time at Brightwood due to staffing shortages.

Commissioner Stephen Cary asked about the lift at the branch. Mr. Mendez reported that there have been no complaints from senior patrons.

Commissioner Cary asked whether there was anything Mr. Mendez needed from the Commission. Mr. Mendez stated that he would organize his thoughts and follow up with the Commission.

Commissioner Matthew Reilly asked whether there are families who speak only Spanish and noted the Library's role as a resource for individuals learning Spanish or English.

Commissioner David Maynard asked about patron traffic at the branches. Mr. Mendez reported that traffic at Brightwood has decreased as staffing shortages have resulted in less programming, while Indian Orchard continues to do well.

2. Approval of draft Minutes from the May 6 and June 3, 2026 Library Commission Meetings

Commissioner Tim Moriarty moved to approve the May 6, 2026 meeting minutes. Commissioner Krysta Fyntrilakis seconded the motion. The motion passed, with Commissioner David Maynard and Commissioner Meghan Lunghi abstaining.

Commissioner Meghan Lunghi moved to approve the June 3, 2026 meeting minutes. Commissioner Tim Moriarty seconded the motion. The motion passed, with Commissioner Krysta Fyntrilakis, Commissioner David Maynard, and Commissioner Matthew Reilly abstaining.

3. Commission Committee Reports

An update was provided on the East Springfield Branch building project. The cost estimate is expected within three weeks, followed by construction documents approximately four to six months later. The project is expected to go out to bid in Spring 2027. Once a construction company is selected, groundbreaking is anticipated in Spring 2027, with a goal of opening the new branch in Spring 2028.

Site plans and renderings were shared with the Commission. The project will expand the building from approximately 3,000 square feet to nearly 9,000 square feet. The design will retain the building's half-moon glass window.

Commissioner David Maynard asked how technology will be incorporated into the new building. Director Molly Fogarty stated that technology was also a concern of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and has been incorporated into the design through additional electrical outlets and charging ports, study rooms, updated monitors for virtual meetings, a new community room, and updated wireless capabilities.

Director Fogarty explained that the building is being designed with flexibility in mind, including furnishings on wheels that can be rearranged as collections and needs change.

	Commissioner Tim Moriarty noted that the community room will be accessible during hours when the Library is closed. Commissioner Krysta Fyntrilakis discussed the historical significance of the East Springfield Branch, including that the East Springfield Neighborhood Council was established in the building. Commissioner Fyntrilakis reflected on her time working as a librarian at the branch and emphasized the building's importance to the neighborhood and community.
4. Chairman's Report	Commissioner Stephen Cary reported meeting with Rabbi Green in Forest Park and discussing literacy in multiple languages through children's books. Future meetings will explore the initiative further, including potential funding. There was discussion regarding obtaining usage data from LanguageLine. Assistant Director Jean Canosa Albano stated that the Library no longer has access to that data. Commissioner Tim Moriarty noted that LanguageLine representatives had indicated they would be willing to share the information. He will forward the information to Assistant Director Canosa Albano for further review. Commissioner Tim Moriarty also discussed Honoring Choices paperwork, noting that the materials are available in multiple languages and may be a helpful resource for community members.
5. Director's Report	Director Molly Fogarty provided an update on the new Friends of the Library group. Following the June meeting, the Friends held a membership meeting attended by approximately 30 people and elected a board. Director Fogarty reported that the group is enthusiastic and has already begun fundraising and other activities.
6. New/ Other Business-	Commissioner Krysta Fyntrilakis raised a concern regarding the need for a sign at the speed bump and stated that she would advocate for one.
7. Public Comment	No public comments were recorded.
8. Executive Session	Not Needed
9. Adjournment	**6:56 PM**

ALL YOURS
SPRINGFIELD CITY LIBRARY
JUST ASK

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, *Secretary*