



**Board of Directors
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 13, 2026**

Officers Present: President Dave Hempson, Treasurer Maura Molnar, Secretary Kathryn Carlson, Kristin LaBeau (at-large member of exec)

Trustees: Connie Bohrer, Bill Conole, Ralph DeMasi, Jennifer Feeney, Susanne Guske, Anne McCarthy, Larry Palmieri, Cristina Pietropaoli, Amy Rolleri, Meghann Sandak

Staff: Library Executive Director Andrea Snyder, Assistant Director and Librarian for Children & Teens, Mary Beth Schwarltzwalder

Absent: Katie Armijo, Paul Torrisi, Jr.

Members of the Public: Capital Campaign Director Erin McCormack

Call to order at 7:22pm

Public Comment Period – no comments

Approval of the Minutes – Minutes from the December 9, 2025 regular board meeting were approved.

President's Report

President Hempson reported that the petition to eliminate one of the two charters under which the library was commissioned has been approved and the library is now chartered under the State Education Department only. He thanked the librarians for their assistance in this effort.

Director's Report

Executive Director Snyder referred the trustees to her report that had been sent electronically. She recommended stopping in on Monday January 19 from 4-6 to the tiny art reception. She also reported that she had received official word that the Library had been awarded \$1.17M from the New York State Library Construction Program for the new library. Each county gets an allotment and Onondaga County was allotted \$1.3 million. The Library will get 90% up front and the remaining 10% when the portion of the project that the grant was tied to is finished. The Library will have to adjust its application because initially the money was for a basement. This is not a difficult thing to do and Director Snyder will take care of the amending of the grant application. The Library has already applied for the next round of grants, asking for \$500K. It can keep submitting each year.

Director Snyder asked all trustees to write to the local representatives in support of library funding in the state budget. President Hempson has already reached out to Gov. Hochul, encouraging her to stop in and review the project.

Finance Committee Report

Treasurer Molnar reported that at three months into the fiscal year there is a large amount of cash on hand (\$425,560.00) from the tax levy. It is in a money market account at 4% interest. There is \$500K in the operating reserve.

The check item marked a “court ordered refund” is the result of a property owner contesting their assessment and winning, thereby receiving a refund on taxes paid. The library maintains a tax refund reserve for this purpose. The library is often not notified of the pending case until after the court has made a ruling.

Treasurer Molnar also reported that the investments are over \$3M and going up. Income and expenses are in line with the budget. The technology line item varies month to month depending on when purchases are made.

For the Fennell Street project funds, total cash-in for the project is \$2.361M and with the library’s internal contribution it is \$2.6M. The monthly cash-in was \$79K, and the year-to-date cash-in was \$98K. Total expenses to-date have been \$1.5M; \$422K for the land, \$848K for the architect and \$100K on fund-raising.

Treasurer Molnar also reported that Fiscal Advisors and Marketing, Inc. has been engaged to help with the bonding process. The Executive Committee met via Zoom with Christine Crowley from that group to review the various options and processes that are involved. Treasurer Molnar displayed a chart developed by Ms. Crowley showing the total costs involved in bonding for selected amounts over either a 20 or 25-year period. Ultimately, decisions will need to be made by the board. It was noted that while the total numbers are large, the cost to the average homeowner is very manageable.

She also noted that the library cannot issue its own bonds but must work either through the State Dormitory Authority (DASNY) or the Onondaga County Civil Development Corporation (CDC). There are pros and cons for each and Ms. Crowley will help the library analyze and decide which route to take. The chosen agency will provide a bond council, but the library should engage its own special council. Director Snyder and Treasurer Molnar have interviewed a candidate and will make a recommendation soon.

The total project cost, as estimated by the architects, will be ready by January 16. Calculations such as future grants, future fund-raising and possible pledge defaults will have to be made in determining how much to bond for. Costs go up \$600-800K every year of delay.

Nominating Committee

Committee chairperson Trustee Palmieri reported that the target number of trustees is 18, and there are now 16 sitting trustees. If anyone knows of likely candidates, please let Trustee Palmieri know.

Fund-Raising Committee

Capital Campaign Director McCormack reported that 2025 was a huge year for fund-raising. In addition, a \$50K gift was received in late December and a \$150K gift was received in January. Every Board member has stepped up, and several made significant donations. The scarf sale netted \$3800 (thanks to Manny Arroyo and his son!). Naming opportunities are still available. There will be personal outreach to selected individuals and businesses. Future meetings of the committee will be work sessions. A salon for Parkside residents will be held soon at the country club. There will be a second open house at the new building site on April 18. There will be another salon in May and a book launch fundraiser at the Brewery. The goal is to get to \$8.2M before the tax levy vote in May.

There has been a 375% increase in the number of donors, with the number now at over 600. There has been a 42% increase in donations from 2024. The microsite is popular and engaging. It is due to be updated this week.

President Hempson thank Capital Campaign Director McCormack for all her hard work which is paying off.

Barrow Art Gallery Update

Trustee Rollerli stated that the previous Barrow annual meeting said everything that needed to be said.

Fennell Street New Building Committee

President Hempson reported that the schematic design phase was completed in December and design/development is the focus of January. He stated that the committee was wonderful and he especially recognized the contribution of member Fran McCormack. He thanked the new members for stepping up to help. He said that while the minutes of meetings from the 60s, 70s and 80s showed a recognition of the need for a new building, the boards of the last 10 years were the ones who had the courage to take on the enormous project.

Public Comment Period – no comments

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2026 at 6:30 pm at the Library.