

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AUGUST 26, 2025

TCPL Board Members Present: Kathy Weinberg, President; Lis Chabot, Jason Kovari, Laura Krauss, Carrie Bauer, Beth Osborne, Nina Scholtz, Christina Brewington, Emily Hopkins

Trustees Excused: Sarah Clausen, Darrell Long, Shelley Wong, Reyna Florentino-Gambrell

Also Present: Susan Currie, Interim Director; Kerry Barnes, TCPL Foundation Executive Director; Mary McKeon, Administrative Manager; Judd Karlman, AS Dept. Head; Brian Sasser, Communications Manager; Rich John, County Legislator

With a quorum, the meeting is convened at 4:02 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA DOC 25-56

A **MOTION** was made by K. Weinberg seconded by J. Kovari to approve the agenda as amended. Approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following attended the meeting and addressed the board:

Shelby Buche
Jeremy Jordan

APPROVAL OF JULY 22, 2025 MINUTES DOC 25-57

A **MOTION** was made by N. Scholtz and seconded by C. Bauer. One abstention. Approved.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2024 BUDGET AMMENDMENT

Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF LIVING WAGE DOC 25-58

Approved unanimously.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Emily Hopkins passed around Linda Bartnick's trustee application and voted. Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

I, Treasurer, Lisabeth Chabot, in keeping with New York State Education Law, certify that I have reviewed all vouchers presented for payment, and that all disbursements are within the approved operating budget of the library and therefore recommend that the Board of Trustees approve for

payment August 2025 bills in the amount of \$266,379.31 as listed in Abstracts #22, # 23, #24 and #25.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We have posted the position of Business Manager and organized the search committee. We will be scheduling interviews as soon as possible.

We also have posted a vacancy for a Librarian I in Youth Services and are creating a search committee for that position. We will also post vacancies for a Library Clerk and Sr. Clerk to help with collection ordering and processing.

The Downtown Ithaca Alliance has invited the library to participate in discussions about emergency communications when there are incidents in nearby buildings. Kat Savage, chair of the TCPL Safety and Security Committee and Mary McKeon, Administrative Manager, who is our liaison with County Facilities and Amric Security.

Many [congratulations](#) to TCPL Youth Services and everyone in the library for an extremely successful and busy Summer Reading Program.

I am preparing the annual budget presentation to the County Legislature. The recommended budget for TCPL is \$4,032,448. This budget includes the \$20,000 that was cut last year but carries forward the 5% cut that the County had across all budgets last year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

K. Weinberg urges everyone to be patient while we have a lot of changes; there is a search for a new director and business manager.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

L. Chabot reported that the search committee has met, screened three candidates and bringing two candidates in for the public presentation on September 10th and September 12th.

LIAISON REPORTS

County- R. John announced he would not be at the September Board meeting. The County Administrator's budget meeting is Tuesday and that will kick off budget season.

Foundation – The Foundation has a very busy autumn, with a variety of events in addition to our usual responsibilities of creating the 2026 budget and work plan, beginning our audit, and year end fundraising activities.

On the evening of September 11, donors in the Library Leaders Circle (LLC) are invited to a production of the Kitchen Theatre's "Bad Books" with a special ticket price, remarks from LLC co-chairs Barry Chester and Elissa Cogan after the show, and a small reception. This complements TCPL activities with the show such as library staff participating in talk-backs and staffing a library card sign-up station.

Other upcoming Foundation events are the Readathon on October 11th, the Foundation's signature peer-to-peer read out loud fundraising event, and a ticketed costume party to kick off TCPL's 25th year on Green Street. More details to come.

The Foundation also encourages the Trustees to participate in National Friends of Libraries week by contributing treats or snacks that the Foundation will deliver, with a signed card, to the Friends on Wednesday, October 22nd to show our gratitude and appreciation for the Friends. Information and a sign-up spreadsheet will be shared with Trustees.

Friends – Booksale starts October 11, donations end on September 13th. The Friends had a successful pop-up sale selling the majority of materials.

A **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting by L. Chabot and seconded by N. Scholtz at 5:25 p.m. Carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A **MOTION** was made by and seconded by J. Kovari to move into Executive Session at 5:26pm. Approved unanimously.

No votes took place.

A **MOTION** was made by S. Wong and seconded by B. Osborne was made to come out of Executive Session at 5:23pm. Approved unanimously.

A **MOTION** was made by B. Osborne to adjourn the meeting and seconded by C. Brewington at 6:15pm. Approved unanimously.

Minutes by Mary McKeon
Administrative Manager

Endorsed by
Secretary