

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
NOVEMBER 18, 2025

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

Trustees Excused: Reyna Florentino-Gambrell, Shelley Wong

Also Present: Kat Savage, Interim Director; Kerry Barnes, TCPL Foundation Executive Director; Mary McKeon, Administrative Manager; Brian Sasser, Communications Manager; Dan Nickerson, Business Manager; Rich John, County Legislator

With a quorum, the meeting is convened at 4:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA DOC 25-86

A **MOTION** was made by B. Osborne and seconded by J. Kovari to approve the agenda. Approved unanimously.

Senator Lea Webb presented the board with a Proclamation acknowledging TCPL's 25 years serving the community on Green St. Senator Webb celebrates the Library's remarkable contributions to education, innovation, and community well-being.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following attended the meeting and addressed the board:  
Ally True

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 18, 2025 MINUTES DOC 25-87

A **MOTION** was made by D. Long and seconded by S. Clausen to approve the minutes. 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 November 2025 bills in the amount of \$185,329.04 as listed in Abstracts #32, # 33, and #34.

ACCEPTANCE OF STAFF WHO HAVE BEEN PROMOTED

Accepted unanimously.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

E. Hopkins made a recommendation for the 2026 slate of officers on behalf of the Nominating Committee. As President - Jason Kovari; Vice President - Beth Osborne; Treasurer - Laura Krauss; Secretary - Darrell Long.

## DIRECTOR REPORT

-The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event was a success. About 300 people attended the Open House and participated in activities and learn more about various services the library provides. We plan to continue to evaluate the impact of the Open House on program attendance and service use. We appreciate the Friends of the Library for supporting this event. Further programming to mark our 25<sup>th</sup> year will occur in 2026.

- Strategic Plan: On Wednesday 11/19 from 5-6:30 we will have a community conversation about the draft Strategic Plan at GIAC. A survey is also available online for those who are unable to make it and the Community Relations Committee will continue to look for more ways to garner feedback on the Plan in the early part of 2026.

- Hiring: Shelby Buche has been promoted to Senior Library Clerk in the Technical Services Unit of Adult Services. We have completed interviews for Clerks and one Page. We have a start date of December 1 for a Clerk in Technical Services and are checking references for the second clerk candidate in Tech Services and the Page candidate. We are waiting for the Library Assistant civil service examination to open and be administered, which will be December 1-31. From there we will have candidates for Library Assistant in Youth Services to interview in January.

- TCPL is now an Age-Friendly Certified Business in Tompkins County. Huge thank you to Kate DeVoe and Melisa Crumrine in Circulation for working with COFA on this endeavor. Circulation has also added new sites to their outreach network, Catholic Charities, Cayuga Nursing and Rehabilitation, and Foodnet Meals on Wheel's new community dining site at the mall.

- Sasha Raffloer in TCPL's Youth Services organized a Food Resources fair quickly in response to uncertainty from federally funded food support programs during the government shutdown. As availability of affordable food remains a challenge in our community, we were happy to host organizations such as Loaves and Fishes, No Mas Lagrimas, and more for an evening in the library to share information about free meals and pantries in the community.

- Cady Fontana welcome a group from Open Doors English in for a tour and time in the Makerspace. In addition, she worked swiftly with Josh Burns and Judd Karlman to repair the laser cutter - in short, a part with a five-year lifespan failed after six years of heavy use.

- Ally True presented a session at NYLA and was also instrumental in working with Susie Gutenberger, director of the Lansing Community Library, on a free screening of the Librarians at Cinemapolis on 11/12. This screening of the documentary about book banning efforts by Moms for Liberty and similar groups was fully attended and was followed by a panel discussion.

- Kat attended NYLA at the start of this month and attended a number of sessions. Themes included sessions on safety, de-escalation, and social work in the library; cardholder access and policy; using the annual report to support advocacy efforts; HR in small libraries; and for my return to Youth Services, innovative Teen programming.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

K. Weinberg announced that an invitation for new trustees has been posted on our website.

#### SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

L. Chabot gave a brief update on the Search for Director on behalf of the committee. As of yesterday we have confirmation from both candidates for December 1<sup>st</sup> & December 3<sup>rd</sup>. A press release will go out tomorrow. The public presentation will be in BorgWarner Community Room and will be livestreamed.

#### LIAISON REPORTS

**Foundation** – The Foundation's Beyond the Margins event on 10/31 went very well, in spite of bad weather and a few technical glitches. We were also thrilled to speak with so many people at the November 8<sup>th</sup> celebration as part of the Friends and Foundation Station. Our audit has begun, as much as possible before the year finishes, along with our budget and workplan preparing for votes at our meeting in December. The year end appeal is on its way. We're looking forward to concluding the year at our annual Tri-Boards Holiday Party on December 8th.

**County** – The legislature will vote tonight on the budget, he recognized we got our extra position. R. John thanked the board for letting him speak at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

**Friends** – N. Scholtz remarked that the fall sale was the third best sale ever. Collectors Corners did very well. The friends are preparing for the spring sale.

A **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting by C. Brewington and seconded by S. Clausen at 5:03 p.m. Carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A **MOTION** was made by C. Brewington and seconded by S. Clausen to move into Executive Session at 4:58pm. Approved unanimously.

No votes took place.

A **MOTION** was made by J. Kovari and seconded by Krauss was made to come out of Executive Session at 5:21pm. Approved unanimously.

Minutes by Mary McKeon  
Administrative Manager

Endorsed by  
Secretary