

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OCTOBER 28, 2025

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

Trustees Excused: Reyna Florentino-Gambrell, Carrie Bauer, Sarah Clausen, Darrell Long, 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

Without a quorum, the meeting is convened at 4:01 p.m., starting with Public Comment, then reports until a quorum.

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following attended the meeting and addressed the board:

Ally True
Kelly Doolittle
Saverine Corylus
Muraci Sitaraman
Joyce Wheatley
Cassie Shortle
Effie Johnson
Cady Fontana
Jeremy Jordan
Shelby Bushe
John Mankovic

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee will bring forth the slate of officers at the November meeting for a vote.

DIRECTOR REPORT

K. Savage thanked Susan Currie for leading TCPL from April to October. K. Savage also welcomed Dan Nickerson, who started in early October as our new Business Manager.

The Fall Friends of the Library book sale will wrap up at 8pm tonight - so if you want to fill up a bag of books and support TCPL after this, you can go over to Esty St and do just that!

The Foundation fundraiser is this Friday, October 31st. Kerry will be speaking more about that.

I will be attending the New York Library Association conference next week and look forward to connecting with library colleagues from across the state. Our own Ally True, library assistant in Circulation, will be presenting a program based on her experiences at the Ithaca College library.

TCPL is in the process of migrating to Windows 11, which included a significant hardware upgrade as our Windows 10 machines were unable to support the new, more secure operating system. I want to commend the staff for working through the various kinks and fine-tuning to provide uninterrupted service to our public at 9am on Monday. Thank you especially to Tom Fredette, Librarian II in Circulation, for project-managing.

Each month, each department prepares a detailed report for the board packet. I realize many of you have busy schedules, Savage highlighted a few wonderful items from each department's report.

Asia Bonacci and Judd Karlman from the Adult Services department have led two book clubs at the Cayuga Addiction Recovery Services sites in downtown Ithaca and Trumansburg. This project was funded by a Finger Lakes Library System mini-grant. In an icebreaker at one meeting, Asia and Judd asked what participants' favorite book is - one participant said, "Well, this is the first book I've read, so I guess this one." Well done Asia, well done Judd, and thank you to Finger Lakes for supporting this initiative. We look forward to building this partnership.

Cassie Shortle from Youth Services visited this year's first Family Night for TCA Head Start families at the Sciencenter. We presented a storytime attended by 22 children and answered questions about the library. Youth Services will continue these visits throughout the school year on a monthly visit.

Ally True and Melisa Crumrine from Circulation prepared an "Adopt-a-Banned-Book" giveaway during the ALA-recognized Banned Books week in the first week of October. 57 books that have been challenged in communities across the company were selected and wrapped in brown paper, with the only clues related to the contents being a simple card noting the audience and why they were challenged.

Thank you again for your trust in me to serve as Interim Director.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Tompkins County Legislature is planning to present the Library with Recognition for 25 years on Green Street at their meeting on November 6th. One of TCPL's long-serving staff members, Tammy Drake, will be accepting the Recognition of TCPL's behalf. Tammy worked in both the Cayuga Street and helped move to the Green Street building in 2000. Trustee Lis Chabot will also be attending with Tammy.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

S. Clausen reported on behalf of the Search Committee, Clausen stated we are working with civil service and we will be meeting on October 30 to decide on where to go from here.

LIAISON REPORTS

Foundation – The Foundation was thrilled to read Christina Brewington’s Impact Statement regarding the GIAC Library Program that TCPL librarians Milly Stephenson and Kai Zheng helped make possible. It was an honor for us to provide funding for this important collaboration and immensely heartwarming to see the impact it has had. Congratulations to the Friends on an incredibly successful book sale. The Foundation’s TCPL After Dark: Beyond the Margins fundraising event is taking place at the Library afterhours on Friday, October 31 from 7-9pm. After that, we will staff a station with the Friends at the Nov. 8th 25 Years on Green Street celebration. We are working on our audit as well as our 2026 budget and workplan, along with our end-of year appeal.

County – The county is close to finalizing the 2026 budget recommendation. John emphasized 2026 is very tough year, there were a lot of requests not given, and money went to the food pantry. John advocated for the two positions we requested, and we got one position.

Friends – The booksale was heavily attended, sales were third or fourth best sale. The sale is open tonight until 8:00 and non-for-profit sale tomorrow afternoon. The friends are cleaning out the warehouse getting ready to collect donations starting November 15th.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA DOC 25-76

A **MOTION** was made by J. Kovari and seconded by L. Chabot to approve the agenda as amended. Approved unanimously

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2025 MINUTES DOC 25-77

A **MOTION** was made by C. Brewington and seconded by K. Weinberg. Approved unanimously.

A LIST OF STAFF WHO HAVE BEEN TERMINATED, HIRED OR PROMOTED DOC 25-78

A **MOTION** was made by L. Krauss and seconded by K. Weinberg to approve the list of staff who have been terminated, hired or promoted. 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 October 2025 bills in the amount of \$219,988.61 as listed in Abstracts #29, # 30, and #31.

A **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting by C. Brewington and seconded by J. Kovari at 4:56 p.m.
Carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A **MOTION** was made by L. Chabot and seconded by K. Weinberg to move into Executive Session at 4:57pm. Approved unanimously.

Update on collective bargaining. No votes took place.

A **MOTION** was made by C. Brewington and seconded by N. Scholtz was made to come out of Executive Session at 5:45pm. Approved unanimously.

A **MOTION** was made by K. Weinberg to adjourn the meeting and seconded by B. Osborn at 5:46pm. Approved unanimously.

Minutes by Mary McKeon
Administrative Manager

Endorsed by
Secretary