DOWNERS GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY
1050 CURTISS STREET
DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING
HELD AT BETTY CHEEVER COUNCIL CHAMBERS
DOWNERS GROVE CIVIC CENTER
SEPTEMBER 23, 2026, 7:00 P.M.

TRUSTEES:

Matt Topic	President
Barnali Khuntia	Secretary
Swapna Gigani	Trustee
Jessica Nastal	Trustee
Meghan Riley	Trustee
Nathan Williams	Trustee

GUESTS:

Jen Ryjewski	Assistant Library Director
Katelyn Vabalaitis	Human Resources & Finance Manager
Amanda Klenk	Adult & Teen Services Interim Manager
Elizabeth Shlah	Library Social Worker

Minutes prepared by Human Resources & Finance Manager Katelyn Vabalaitis.

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, and adequate and proper notice of the meeting having been given, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Matt Topic led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

All members of the Board were present.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion made by Barnali Khuntia, seconded by Meghan Riley, it was resolved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Gigani, Khuntia, Nastal, Riley, Williams, Topic. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Included in the Consent Agenda:

- August 26, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
- August 2026 Financial Report
- September 2026 Invoices

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marsha Prichason, a Downers Grove resident, thanked the board, director, and library staff for continuing to maintain a robust schedule of programming for library patrons. She said the library does a great job at providing quality programming throughout the year and the scope and variety of programs cannot be understated, as there is literally something for everyone. She was pleased to see some programming related to LGBTQ+ history month, noting that programs with historical context can dispel false information. She asked that the library continue its excellent work and continue to provide the depth and breadth of programming that has made it incomparable to others.

Ilene Briner, resident, reminded the board that there are three months left in the historic year that is the 250th anniversary of our country, which means there are three months left to celebrate with a patriotic book in Constitution Park. She urged the board to not let the opportunity get away.

Linda Schranz, forty-year resident, has spent the last 15 years conducting the book club for the First Congregational Church and she is very grateful for the book club services that the library provides. Staff have always been accommodating and she gave a special shoutout to staff member Joshua.

6. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Meghan Riley commented that at the end of August, DGPL staff held an amazing behind the scenes tour for Village Council, the trustees, and the Foundation board. She enjoyed getting to see behind closed doors and continues to be amazed at how hardworking, professional, and dedicated every staff member is to the institution. She also highlighted the book club bag program, noting that she and her neighbors have been using the bags for the past few years to source new material for their club. She commented that they are thoughtfully curated with a wide variety of materials and they always come with a list of discussion questions and reviews. Trustee Riley noted that the bags continue to highlight the library's work on equity and inclusion.

Jessica Nastal shared that she has been reading *The Bill of Obligations: The Ten Habits of Good Citizens* by Dr. Richard Haas with colleagues and students and summarized Dr. Haas' background. In the introduction to the book, Dr. Haas states that he is kept up at night by the decline in our democracy. Trustee Nastal outlined his habits for saving democracy, including being informed, staying open to compromise, staying civil, and promoting the common good. Haas stated we are all in positions of some potential power and we can use library databases, read the news, register to vote, and read the Constitution and Federalist Papers.

Barnali Khuntia welcomed David Virkus, the library's new Technology Services Manager, noting that within his first few weeks, he completed the deployment of the new computers to staff. She also thanked Children's Services Assistant Manager Traci Skocik and Adult & Teen Services Assistant Manager Amanda Klenk for stepping in as interim managers for their departments, noting they are doing a phenomenal job.

Swapna Gigani attended the Downers Grove Public Library Foundation's meeting on Monday, as she is now serving as the Board's liaison to the Foundation. She was very impressed with their meeting and commented that they have some wonderful things coming up.

Nathan Williams thanked Assistant Library Director Jen Ryjewski for her service to the library and for filling in for the director. He highlighted the library's new homeschool collection

in the Kids Room and noted that Yom Kippur was earlier in the week and found a day of reflection and atonement to be healing.

7. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Library Director Jen Ryjewski encouraged everyone to read the full Summer Reading report in the board packet, noting it was a phenomenal summer. Last Saturday, DGPL collaborated with new partner, District 58 Foundation, by participating in their Oktoberfest event. It was run by volunteers with 100% of proceeds going to schools and the Kids Room held a storytime and dance parties. Other staff were also present to engage with the community, take pictures, and run the photobooth. Despite the weather, staff saw 164 fest attendees. Ryjewski welcomed Technology Services Manager David Virkus to DGPL and announced that staff have wrapped up interviews for the Children's Services Manager position and posted the Adult & Teen Services Manager position.

7.1 Adult & Teen Services/Social Work Presentation

Interim Adult & Teen Services Manager Amanda Klenk presented on her department, recognizing the recent big change of moving sixth graders into Teen Central to align with the changes in District 58. The ATS department has four assistants, ten librarians, a social worker, and the manager and assistant manager. Staff work to ensure everyone can find something at DGPL, from a book to a program to a digital resource to a room to study in. Staff follow trends in publishing and follow data in monthly reports to make decisions on how to best curate the library's collections. Digital collections continue to grow and more of the collections' budget has been dedicated to those digital materials. Staff have yet to see a plateau in demand. This year, an Anything Emporium collection is being added specifically for middle and high schoolers. The travel, graphic novel, and sheet music collections have been re-catalogued or moved to be more user friendly. Staff help over 100 book clubs get their monthly copies of books, as well as give recommendations and suggestions. Programs include in-person crafts, after hours programs, food tastings, concerts, and more. Staff complete genre studies and database studies to stay informed. This year saw the first hire for the internship program and staff hosted high school student volunteers through the SMILE project.

Social Worker Elizabeth Shlah has been at DGPL for just over a year. She noted that social services staff are projected to hit 855 interactions for 2026, with senior assistance projected to grow by 28.3%. Types of interactions include employment assistant, housing, mental health, transportation, and senior services. Staff work with community partners such as Cars of Hope, DuPage PADS, Hopes Front Door, Sharing Connections, and the Village's social worker.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Moving Day of Monthly Board Meetings

The Board discussed the possibility of changing the dates of the monthly meetings, looking at the third Monday of each month and potentially moving the start time up to 6 p.m. There was discussion about everyone's availability as well as the impact this change would have on the Foundation, which has its monthly meetings at that same time. There was also discussion on the availability of Council Chambers and the impact on the monthly finance work the Village does for the library. Staff will talk with the Village and bring information back for the next meeting.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9.1 Trustee Bylaws Review

Trustee Meghan Riley worked with staff on bylaws recommendations, which include requiring trustees to hold a valid DGPL card, citing the specific library act that designates the Village as the library's treasurer, listing a process for the annual meeting schedule, including the order of business, and updating the process for calling a special meeting. The bylaws will be up for a vote at the next meeting.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

10.1 5 ILCS 120(c)(1), for discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee

On a motion made by Barnali Khuntia, seconded by Meghan Riley, it was resolved to move into Executive Session, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), for discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee. Motion carried by voice vote.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.
The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:33 p.m.

10.2 Final action, if any, regarding appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee

There were no action items.

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Topic adjourned the meeting at 9:34 p.m.

DISCLAIMER

The above minutes should be used as a summary of the motions passed and issues discussed at the meeting. This document shall not be considered a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting.