

SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Carolyn A. Anthony Business and Community Center

CALL TO ORDER

Michelle Mallari, President, called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

Members present:

- Michelle Mallari, President; Alisa Ungar-Sargon, Vice President; Mary Pietrucha, Secretary; Voula Colburn; Leah Glickman, Amanda Lichtenstein; Ella Whitehead.

Staff present:

- Richard Kong, Executive Director; Laura McGrath, Deputy Director; Amy Koester, Director of Public Services; Annabelle Mortensen, Director of Access Services; Alyson Doubek, Finance Manager; Amy Holcomb, Learning Experiences Manager; Suzy Rodela-Sulik, Administrative Coordinator.

COMMENTS FROM OBSERVERS

There were no comments from observers.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AND CLOSED MEETINGS OF FEBRUARY 11, 2026

At 6:33 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Glickman, seconded by Ms. Whitehead:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AND CLOSED MEETINGS OF FEBRUARY 11, 2026.

A vote was taken, and the motion passed. There were 7 ayes and 0 nays.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Kong provided updates on the delayed property tax distributions, strategic priorities, Call to Artists RFP, potential Donor Wall project, Seed Library, and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 2026 DISBURSEMENT REPORT

The trustees asked some clarifying questions about the disbursements.

At 7:08 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Ungar-Sargon, seconded by Ms. Glickman:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 2026 DISBURSEMENT REPORT.

A vote was taken, and the motion passed. There were 7 ayes and 0 nays.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

The trustees discussed the reports and gate count statistics.

At 7:16 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Whitehead, seconded by Ms. Glickman:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, AND THAT THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BE PLACED ON FILE:
 1. REPORTS;
 2. GIFTS;
 3. PERSONNEL;

HIRES:

Effective February 27, 2026:

Isaac Streiff, Youth Services Specialist, Youth Services.

Robert Koehler, Information Services Specialist, Patron Engagement.

Effective February 23, 2026:

Anthony Van Dusen, Patron Services Assistant, Access Services.

Effective February 18, 2026:

Jennifer Otsuka, Materials Handler, Access Services.

DEPARTURES:

Effective February 27, 2026:

Luke Gilbreth, Information Services Specialist, Patron Engagement.

Effective February 23, 2026:

Anna Ortega, Information Services Specialist, Patron Engagement.

A vote was taken, and the motion passed. There were 7 ayes and 0 nays.

APPROVAL OF REVISED BORROWING POLICY

Ms. Mortensen provided a summary and recommended approval of the revised borrowing policy. The trustees asked some clarifying questions and recommended an amendment to the business card section.

At 7:25 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Whitehead, seconded by Ms. Ungar-Sargon:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE REVISED BORROWING POLICY AS AMENDED.

A vote was taken, and the motion passed. There were 7 ayes and 0 nays.

APPROVAL OF REVISED RESOURCES SELECTION POLICY

Ms. Mortensen provided a summary and recommended approval of the revised resources selection policy. The trustees asked some clarifying questions.

At 7:35 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Ungar-Sargon, seconded by Ms. Whitehead:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE REVISED RESOURCES SELECTION POLICY AS AMENDED.

A vote was taken, and the motion passed. There were 7 ayes and 0 nays.

PROJECTED FY 2026-2027 BUDGET

Mr. Kong provided details on the second look at the draft projected FY26-27 budget. The trustees discussed the projected budget and asked some clarifying questions.

ACCEPTANCE OF AWARD OF BID FOR EXTERIOR SEALANT PROJECT

Ms. McGrath provided an overview of the exterior sealant replacement project and recommended acceptance of the bid from Berglund Construction Services. The trustees asked some clarifying questions.

At 7:54 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Whitehead, seconded by Ms. Glickman:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE

AWARD OF THE BID FROM BERGLUND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE
EXTERIOR SEALANT PROJECT AT A TOTAL COST OF \$262,000.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed. There were 7 ayes and 0 nays.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES

Ms. Colburn asked about our e-book collection acquisitions process and how volumes can be placed on hold.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:58 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Whitehead, seconded by Ms. Colburn:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES ADJOURN THE
REGULAR MEETING.

A vote was taken, and the motion passed. There were 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Mary Pietrucha, Secretary