

Berkley Public Library Trustees Meeting Minutes

May 12th, 2026

ATTENDING: Paula Dugan, Chairperson; Megan Silva, Trustee; Dean Larabee, Trustee; Carol Buote, Director; Emily Taylor, Secretary, Cathy Charette, President of the Friends of the Library

BILLS: Bills were reviewed and signed.

CALL TO ORDER: Call to order at 7:15 PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 24th, 2026, at 7:15 PM.

MINUTES OF PAST MEETING: April minutes were read and accepted into the record.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN REPORT: The Children's Room is doing Bookworms on Tuesday and Wednesday, Kids Chess Club monthly, Open Play on Fridays, Play and Learn once a month on Friday, Guessing Jar, and Zine Making. Attendance is low.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The Director's Report for the period of April 15th to May 12th, 2026, was read. The May book club discussed *Murder on the Page* by Daryl Wood Gerber. The June book club will discuss *The Girls of Good Fortune* by Kristina McMorris. Current book displays are "Books Make Your Mind Bloom" and the Massachusetts Center for the Book reading challenge. Carol gave a Library Services presentation to Happy Hearts on April 16th. For the Library Construction grant, the library is looking at more funds for the cost estimate. Carol will update the application with new cost information. Due to staff shortage and having to cover numerous circulation shifts, Carol concentrated on pressing issues and had to close the library for a few hours. A new Children's Librarian has been hired. Daly McCabe has a robust writing background which Carol liked. Carol had to wait three weeks to get her approved by the personnel board, most likely due to the override. On April 21st, the library received their second state aid award payment for the year in the amount of \$9,494.89. With the override failing, the library will need to advocate for their budget not being cut any further. Carol did not get the AARP grant but plans to do a reduced version of the project anyways. The project is hotspot lending through the Council on Aging.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT: There was no meeting in April. The next meeting is on 5/27. The shed is doing great, bringing in almost \$700 since it has been there. Friends are holding small fundraisers.

POLICY REVIEW: Lending to Decertified Libraries was reviewed in second reading. Trustee Dean Larabee made a motion to accept the policy. The motion was accepted. The next policy to be reviewed is Use of Library Facilities.

PUBLIC INPUT: No public input.

PAST BUSINESS: No past business.

CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence.

Adjourned at 7:34 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Emily Taylor, Secretary