



Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Trustees
Tuesday, July 21, 2026 – Central Library Lecture Room
3:30 p.m.

Minutes of Actions and Decisions of the Library Board of Trustees of the Bellingham Public Library as authorized by RCW 27.12.210 and SEC. 7.02 Charter of the City of Bellingham.

Board Members Present:	Kristy Van Ness, Kendra Bradford, Deborra Garrett (via phone)
City Council Library Liaison:	Not present
Library Management Staff:	Rebecca Judd, Annette Bagley, Katrina Buckman, Jon McConnel, Jennifer Vander Ploeg, Madeline Rosenvinge, Hillary Thomsen
FOBPL Representative:	Treasure Samuel, Carol Comeau, Friends of BPL Board Liaisons
Guest Presenter:	N/A

Call to order and introductions: Regular session was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Vice Chair, Kristy Van Ness.

Approve/modify agenda: Kendra Bradford moved to approve the agenda. Deborra Garrett seconded. Motion carried.

Public comment: None

Consent agenda: Rebecca Judd noted that the quarterly reports will be discussed at the August meeting. Deborra Garrett moved to approve the June 16, 2026 Regular meeting minutes and the June performance and activity measures and financial reports. Kendra Bradford seconded. Motion carried.

Board Chair report:

- None

Board member reports:

- None

City Council liaison report:

- None

Friends of BPL report: Treasure Samuel, on behalf of Carole Comeau announced that the next Book Sale, "Books & Brewing" will take place on August 1, from 12-5 at Wander Brewing. The September sale is scheduled for September 24-26.

Library Director report: Rebecca Judd welcomed new Library Administrative Assistant Hillary Thomsen and thanked Madeline Rosenvinge for her two years of service. Rebecca shared that a library group walked with the City in the Pride Parade earlier this month. Coming up, the Children's Craft Fair at Lee Memorial park will be held on July 31. Next month the ALICE report from United Way will be included in the Board packet.

Central Library Renovation Update: Caleb Savage shared that the renovation design is 90% complete and the bidding package is nearly finalized. The asbestos/abatement discussion continues through August so hazardous protection can be added to the bidding package. The bid packet is expected to be published at the end of August.

2027 Budget development update: Rebecca Judd explained that this is the third year of budget reductions, and with this 3% reduction exercise we are below the low level of service for materials. Department Head review of department budgets with the Mayor's Office will take place July 30 and Aug 13. The 2027 Budget proposal goes to City Council at the end of September. Carol Comeau asked about appropriate timing for Friends of BPL advocacy related to the budget cuts.

Level of Service, Staff Total FTE — Action item: Rebecca Judd referred to page 43 of the packet, showing the 2018 standard, and the new Staff Total FTE Level of Service proposal, based on revised open hours. Kendra Bradford motioned to approve the revised Staff Total FTE Level of Service. Deborra Garrett seconded; motion carried.

Bellingham Public Library Service Level — Cost and Funding Options: Rebecca Judd provided an overview of ongoing discussions with the Mayor's Office regarding long-term funding strategies and alignment with the proposed Regional Fire Authority (RFA). She discussed the recent meeting on July 14 with Mayor Lund, Forrest Longman, Janice Keller, Rebecca Craven, Kristy Van Ness, Bethany Hogle, Annette Bagley and herself - during which the group reviewed service level goals, operational and capital needs, and potential capacity created by the RFA. Trustees discussed messaging, the importance of community investment, and timing for Friends advocacy. Rebecca will meet again with the Mayor on August 11 to review additional financial modeling and prepare recommendations. Treasure Samuels also mentioned community perceptions of school district librarian cuts and the importance of emphasizing the Library's role as a vital public resource.

Fundraising Committee Update: Rebecca shared that the Capital Campaign Committee had their most recent donor engagement event at the end of June; the next one is July 28. Kendra Bradford will take over representing the Trustees in this committee. Current fundraising totals will be reported next month.

Day Center update: No update.

Director review update: Deborra Garrett shared that she and Shirin Deylami will have an update next month.

New Business: Rebecca Judd shared we have a trespass appeal request. Per Library procedures, an appeal committee will be established—Deborra Garrett and Shirin Deylami will be part of the appeal committee. We have 30 days to respond with a decision.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Quarterly reports
- Mayor's office update
- Police Department presentation

Meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Next Regular Library Board Meeting – August 18, 2026 – Central Library Lecture Room – 3:30 p.m.

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees