

**Brentwood Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
January 13, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL FOR QUORUM

President Ed Wright called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Board members present were Ed Wright (President), Kathy Ryan (Vice President), Lori Ashmore-Ruppel (Secretary), Laura McAllister, Beth Miller Erman, Mary Stevens, Kelsey Burkemper, Angela BoClair, and Megan Moss. A quorum was present. Gina Gibbons, Library Director, and Sharon Harter, the aldermanic liaison, were also present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made to accept the agenda by M. Stevens and seconded by K. Ryan. All vote aye.

MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING

The minutes of December 9, 2025, are accepted by E. Wright as submitted.

READING OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no visitors at the meeting.

ALDERMANIC LIAISON'S REPORT

BHS and BMS are hosting STEMfest on February 5th. The Public Safety Committee will be discussing an ordinance regarding e-bikes and e-scooters. They seek to find a balance that neither restricts use too much nor leaves everyone unsafe.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The director's report included highlights from 20205, including asbestos removal at the new site, hiring Arcturis for the rebranding project, groundbreaking at the new library, rolling out the new branding, and selecting furniture for the new library, among other highlights.

A man at the Maplewood Library accosted the library director. The man has been banned from both the Maplewood and Brentwood Libraries. His name and photo have been given to staff, and they are instructed to call the police if he comes into the library.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on the New Building

The steel has arrived after a couple weeks' delay. The builders are staying on schedule. A neighbor was talking to the builders about the drainage situation. Drainage was an issue before the library acquired the property. It was believed to be resolved, but it was not, so the library is looking to resolve it.

The library is trying to find a time for the board to visit the site. One option would be President's Day - February 16th. The best time would be late afternoon or lunchtime. E. Wright will present those suggestions and return to the board with a time option.

Meeting on Thursday with Major Jason Simpson to discuss the "book chain" for moving items into the new library space prior to the grand opening (likely in October).

Community Relations Committee

The committee will meet in February to discuss the book chain and the shelf program. The meeting will take place at the Kirkwood Library.

Library Advocacy Committee

There was an article in the Sunday Post-Dispatch in St. Louis discussing people challenging books in school libraries.

Strategic Planning Committee

Beth and Laura refined the draft and incorporated feedback; those changes will be incorporated. One goal is to increase the number of library cardholders, so the board discussed potential library card drives at Brentwood events and around the library opening. The staff will continue to create these ideas, and the board will support them in any way possible.

The drafted plan has the following pillars with corresponding goals:

1. Community
2. Stewardship
3. Programming
4. Outreach

There were a few edits to the document:

- At the end of the paragraph under "Expansion Underway," add "and for a variety of library and community activities."
- Under programming, the first point after the title of "Actions" adds homeschool children to the list of nonpublic Brentwood schools.

A motion to adopt the proposed library strategic plan as submitted, amended, and edited was moved by L. McAllister and seconded by L. Ashmore-Ruppel. All vote aye.

Employee Milestones

This will be addressed at the next meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The library is operating within the new building's budget. The library has the following investments:

- MOCAAT and UMB - \$2.8 million liquid assets, \$.852 million invest in T bonds
- CBIC Investments - \$2.7 million invested in T Bonds

Total available for remaining construction costs - \$6.32 million

The library staff does a wonderful job at staying within budget and seeking grants when appropriate

NEW BUSINESS

Goals 2026

The advocacy is an ongoing goal, so the library does not need a committee. Advocacy is having a moment in time and may only increase. The strategic planning goal is nearly complete.

There will be two main goals:

- Successfully opening of the new library (subgoals to include community relations, opening celebration, communication strategy)
- Implementation around the strategic plan. A goal could be implementing the strategic plan.

A move to establish two major committees centered on the implementation of the strategic plan and the opening of the new library was made by B. Miller Erman and seconded by M. Stevens. All vote aye.

Friends of BPL

The library previously discussed reviving the Friends of BPL. It would be helpful as the library moves into the new space. There are open questions regarding who would be in charge and what they would be asked to do going forward. Maplewood has an active group that could serve as an example. In Maplewood, their Friends of the Maplewood Library is a standalone organization and offers two membership levels. The library needs to be careful about engaging in fundraising after asking for funds through the tax levy. There is also a need for clear communication between the board, Friends of BPL, and the library.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brentwood Representative Ray Reed is having a re-election campaign kickoff rally on Friday, January 16, at 6 pm at The Heights.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will take place on February 10, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the library meeting room. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by B. Miller Erman and seconded by K. Burkemper at 7:30 p.m. All vote aye.