

Minutes of the Board of Trustees
North Little Rock Public Library
Regular Meeting
Monday, November 17, 2025 @ 5:30 PM

The Board met in the Art Gallery at Laman Library with Mr. Sonny Rhodes calling the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Those present were Ms. Crystal Gates, CEO/Chief Librarian; Mr. Rhodes, President; Ms. Katie Phippin; Vice President; Mr. Charley Baxter; Ms. Joyce Brewer, Ms. Esther Crawford, Ms. Kim Drake, and Ms. Jenny Heard. Also present: Ms. Cindy Alvarez, Ms. Kim Arcega, Ms. Robin Campbell, Ms. Susie Kirk, Ms. Darcy Pattison, Ms. Stacy Purdy, Mr. Richard Theilig, Ms. Jill Wheeler, and Ms. Lacy Wolfe.

Motion Ms. Brewer, second Ms. Drake to approve the minutes of September 15, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Gates gave an overview of large expenses this year. Motion Ms. Drake, second Ms. Brewer, to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Theilig presented statistical projections for the year. Ms. Gates highlighted a message from an Assistant Library Director in Texas praising the programming inspiration provided by the NLRPLS Facebook page. She also shared an appreciation card received by Library programmers from author India Hayford after her recent Author Talk. Mr. Rhodes noted his enjoyment of the first One Community, One Book selection, *What You Are Looking For Is in the Library*. Motion Ms. Phippin, second Ms. Heard to approve the Statistical Report. Motion carried unanimously.

There were no questions regarding Executive Summary Reports.

In a Facilities Update, Ms. Gates reported that the Laman Library roof replacement is complete, and planning continues for the roof replacement at Argenta Library.

Motion Mr. Baxter, second Ms. Brewer to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Motion carried unanimously. Motion Ms. Crawford, second Ms. Brewer to exit Executive Session with no action taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Ms. Drake, second Ms. Heard to table the 2025/2026 budgets until the next meeting, with direction to amend budgets to zero out Innovation Hub expenses for 2026 and move forward with cancelling the Hub lease, including staff restructuring. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Gates reviewed the 2026 Benefits Package comparing medical, dental, and vision plans. Motion Ms. Phippin, second Ms. Drake to take AMLBF for health coverage, Delta Dental through AML, and Eyemed through AML, with employee contributions as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Baxter, second Ms. Crawford to nominate officers as is with Mr. Rhodes serving as President and Ms. Phippin as Vice President. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Ms. Brewer, second Ms. Phippin to set 2026 meetings for 5:30 p.m. on the third Monday of odd months. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Gates also noted upcoming events, including the Graduation of Skills to Launch Cohort 12 and Third Friday Art Walk. Each member received an updated copy of *Arkansas Public Library Laws Annotated*.

The next regular meeting is set for January 19, 2026.

During Board Member Comments, Mr. Baxter shared news of his upcoming publication in *Tales of North Little Rock*. Ms. Crawford noted the recent naming of the North Little Rock Hays Center Art Gallery in honor of Mr. Baxter.

With no further business to discuss, motion Ms. Brewer, second Ms. Heard to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Crystal Gates, Secretary