Holyoke Public Library Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2026

Location: Holyoke Public Library Community Room

Present:

Present	Member
X	George Mettey, President
X	Manuel Frau-Ramos, VP
X	Meghan Connolly, Treasurer
X	Brenna Levitin, Clerk
	Gabriela Alcántara Pöhls
	Jacksiel Colon-Rodriguez

Present	Member
X	Denise Duguay
X	Victor Machado
X	Jeremy Smith
X	Iohann Rashi Vega
X	Maggie Whitehead

Also present: Jason Lefebvre, Director; Alexandra Aguirre, Finance Manager

Meeting was called to order at 5:33pm by George Mettey.

Approve Minutes:

Manuel motioned to approve May 2026 minutes, Maggie seconded. **Motion passed 8 ayes, 1 abstention.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Congratulations to Manuel for his Social Justice Award recipient!

PRESIDENT'S UPDATES: George Mettey

- Jack from Harpswell will come in July

- Send George an email with any questions
- Business Improvement District
    - If we reject, sent a message saying we appreciate the offer but we're not in a financial position currently to be involved

Denise made a motion to decline the offer of joining the BID, Brenna seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

- HPL Realty Board—Bellamy needs to step down
- He's a City appointee to that board
- He wants Andrew Parker to take his place and he'll train him
- City Directors on the Library Board would need to vote him in
- Brenna requests that George sends the bylaws, incorporation documents, current list of members to everyone so that we understand what
- Next meeting is tomorrow June 10 at 3pm
- George is also trying to figure out if we still need HPLR
- Denise suggests that we email the City Solicitor to say we intend to disband HPLR and then they can either come back to us and say 'you can't', or say 'go ahead'
- Jeremy found documentation saying that HPLR anticipates owning the library until the City bond is paid off in 2032
- We need to understand how the City is tracking the bond and how they're paying it down
- George has asked Rory (Treasurer) when the 2.2 million will be paid off, and how and when it gets paid down
- Light pole that was knocked down will need to be replaced because they're interconnected
- Denise asks if we should move the light poles since this has happened multiple times, or add a barrier in front like a big concrete ball
- We suggest planters
- Jason will go to the Mayor to see if he'll pay to replace the lightpost since it's a safety issue

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jason Lefebvre

- Closing on the donated house is soon
- Some possessions are still at the auctioneer, so far ~$12,500
- We need to do something to mark the extremely generous donation
- Brenna asks if we could combine and dedicate some extensive planters including the barriers for the lightpoles
- We could also connect this to a small capital campaign for beautification/improving the programming in the park
- Budget meeting with City Council is tomorrow
- Raingarden planting event is Saturday the 13th
- Flags for Heroes display will also be installed on the 13th

- We'll do a flag for Maria and a flag for Marc the custodian
- Jason is trying to get DPW to handle the grass faster
- Water fountain

Brenna motioned to approve the quote including the bottle filler, Jeremy seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

- Adult Services are doing a lot of collaboration, Children's also
- We'll be at the farmer's markets
- Numbers are slightly up
- We'll do K-5 visits every week with one of the local schools
- Staff is doing an active shooter training
- Jeremy asks whether the department reports are still being submitted, Jason will put them all on SharePoint so we can access them

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Meghan Connolley

- We are doing well
- FY25 audit is already done, no material findings
- We still don't know how much is in the state aid account that the city manages
- Denise asks if the money we have in bank balances is in high-yield or not
- Allie said it's not currently in there
- Brenna will send a specific high-yield option to Allie and Meghan
- Denise suggests we go to Peoples Bank and ask them if they can match it

TECHNOLOGY: Brenna Levitin

- We are working on replacing a large number of computers
- We're not replacing some, some will be retired entirely and some will be separated for rare and specific use cases
- George will ask for $30,000 from HPLR for replacement for public use computer hardware

Brena moved to adjourn. Maggie seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:21pm.