

Minutes for DFPL Board of Trustees Meeting February 11, 2026

Call to order:

A regular monthly meeting of the Dobbs Ferry Library Board of Trustees was held on February 11 2026 at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library. The meeting began at 7:30pm and was presided over by Linda Stutz as President and Inna Livitz as Secretary.

Attendees:

- Voting members in attendance: Erika Abelon, David Agosto, Inna Livitz, Alex Peck, Linda Stutz, Frank Vizard, and David Webber
- Library Staff in attendance: Erik Carlson, Director; and Donna Garofalo, taking minutes
- Guests: Lisa Bai, President of the Friends of DFPL; and Donna Assumma, Village Liaison
- Members not in attendance: David Tabacoff

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the January 2026 meeting were reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees.

Review:

1. President's Report:

- **Trustee resignation:** President Stutz noted the resignation of Trustee Sam Gruen and expressed regret at his departure. The Board will begin recruiting for his replacement. President Stutz has so far received one inquiry about the open position.
- **Minigolf Fundraiser:** President Stutz congratulated the Library Director on a successful minigolf fundraiser, which raised an estimated \$6000 and led patrons to explore less frequently visited parts of the library.
- **Rivertowns Chamber of Commerce Gala:** Remaining preparations for the Gala include outreach to potential attendees. Gala will be advertised in upcoming library newsletters and on the website.
- **Library of Things:** Trustees agreed to move forward with evaluating community interest in a "library of things." The Director will field a survey to gauge interest and to learn what types of items would community members want included in such a library. Depending on level and scope of interest, Board will consider questions about borrowing logistics, liability, and maintenance of items. Director will seek input from other libraries who have implemented a "library of things."

2. Director's Report:

- **New York State Annual Report:** The Director is preparing the annual report for New York State. The Director is looking to update the annual reporting process, having taken over the responsibility following Ned Canora's retirement. Trustees Peck and Livitz will assist the Director with Google sheet formulas to streamline the reporting.
- **Assistant Librarian position:** The Director updated the Board on the search for Ned Canora's replacement. The Director is continuing to work with the Civil Service to convert the Librarian II position to an Assistant Director position, so that the Library can begin canvassing,

3. Secretary's Report

Secretary Livitz reported on the first meeting of the ad-hoc committee to rethink Trustee Google workspace accounts. As a first step, the Director will connect Trustees Livitz and Peck to the head of IT at WLS to discuss options for archiving accounts of former trustees and assigning individual trustee accounts.

4. Librarians' Report

The library ran many excellent and well-attended programs in January, although the teen programming was less well attended. Director to work on outreach strategies and program ideas with the teen librarian to increase interest and boost attendance.

5. Friends of the Library Report:

Lisa Bai, President of the Friends of DFPL, updated the Board on recent developments at the Friends, including:

- New incoming officers (VP and Treasure) later this year, pending election.
- Week of Love programming, including a well-attended Craft and Sip event and planned cookie-decorating and storytime for kids.
- Membership drive planned for April, annual meeting May 18
- Friends will send Erik to the Gala on behalf of the library

President Stutz shared some highlights from her conversation with Lisa Bai about the aligned missions of the Library Board and the Friends:

- The Friends and the Library Board will collaborate on moving forward with the "library of things"
- The Friends will present to the Library some ideas for honoring the generous bequest of former Friends President Mary Caruso. Her bequest presents an opportunity for the Library to introduce the community to the idea of a library legacy society.
- Lisa Bai and President Stutz agreed on the importance of library staff friendliness and engagement with patrons to make visitors feel welcome. The Director has conveyed to the staff that customer service is a priority.

6. Village Liaison Report

- In order to address the Library HVAC issues, the Village will hire an engineer to evaluate the system and propose possible solutions.
- The Village Liaison commented on the Library's goals for the year and their overlap with Village goals, especially in the areas of technology and communications.

7. Committee Reports

Policy Committee:

- **Updated Bylaws:** Motion to approve the updated Bylaws was made, seconded and passed by the Board.
- **Updated Code of Conduct:** Motion to approve updated Code of Conduct was made, seconded, and passed by the Board.
- **Goals for upcoming year:** Trustee Livitz reported that several policies are out of date; the committee will begin work on policies that are mandated by the State or a priority for the Director. The policy committee will also continue work on creating a volunteer policy.

Finance Committee:

- **Monthly expenditure report** was found to be in order, with most expenditures relating to book purchasing.
- **Fire panel:** The old fire panel in the vestibule needs to be replaced. The cost of the repair is high, and although it is not a time-sensitive safety issue, it does need to be addressed. The source of the funds for the repair will need to be confirmed with the Village.

Personnel Committee:

- Waiting on the civil service to finalize the job posting for an Assistant Director position.

Announcements and Upcoming

- Next meetings scheduled: March 18, April 15, May 20, and June 17.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting ended at **8:30**

Secretary signature: Inna Livitz 3/15/2026

Date of approval by the Board: 3/18/2026