

## BOARD MEMBERS

Stephanie Pasha, *President*  
Laura Nicole Miller, *Vice President*  
Roseann Fitzgerald, *Secretary*  
Matthew Noe, *Treasurer*  
Christina Andrianopoulos  
Harriette Chandler  
Mary Chenaille  
David Dominguez  
Gail Schuyler  
Kimberly Smalley  
Sheila Trapasso  
Ronald Waddell

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अनुवाद र अग्य आवसह अ-म अनरोधपचत उपलब्ध हुन्छ।

Interpretação e outras adaptações estão disponíveis mediante solicitação prévia.

Përkthimi dhe akomodime të tjera janë në dispozicion me kërkesë paraprake.

Kasa nkyeræasee ene akwanya afoforo da ho ma won a won be bisa ato ho.

Phiên dịch và các hỗ trợ khác có sẵn theo yêu cầu trước.

## WPL LEADERSHIP

Jason Homer, Executive Director

## WPL MISSION

As the heart of the community, we strive to nurture lifelong learning, cultivate knowledge, and champion intellectual freedom.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA

June 17, 2026 – Green Room – 5:00pm  
Worcester Public Library  
3 Salem Square

This Board of Directors for the Worcester Public Library meeting will be held **in-person** at the date, time and location listed above. Meeting attendees will additionally have options to participate remotely by joining online or by phone:

- Worcester Public Library is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83570744013?pwd=rNjZdIgenRoaHCv0a9hXJpBEAy43bo.1>
- Meeting ID: 835 7074 4013. Passcode: 637709

*Note: If technological problems interrupt the virtual meeting component, the meeting will continue in-person.*

Application materials may be viewed by appointment at the Main Branch of the Worcester Public Library between 9:00 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information concerning this meeting, please contact the Worcester Public Library by email at [comms@mywpl.org](mailto:comms@mywpl.org). Please send **written comments**, requests for reasonable accommodation, or requests for language interpretation 2 business days or more in advance of the meeting.

- **Call to Order – 5:00pm**
- **Approval of May 27, 2026 minutes**
- **Report of the Board President**
  - **VOTE: Approval for Administration Committee to act on behalf of full board during the summer**
  - **VOTE: Approval for Buildings and Grounds, By laws, and any other committee to meet during Summer if requested by Board President.**
- **Report of the Executive Director**
  - **Website preview**
- **Report of the Finance Committee**
- **Report of the Friends of the Worcester Public Library**
- **Report of the Worcester Public Library Foundation**
- **Old Business**
- **New Business**
- **Adjourn**



**Wednesday, May 27, 2026  
Worcester Public Library  
3 Salem Square, Green Room**

**Directors Present:** Stephanie Pasha, President  
Laura Nicole Miller, Vice President  
Roseann Fitzgerald, Secretary  
Matthew Noe, Treasurer  
Christina Andrianopoulos  
Sen. Harriet Chandler  
Mary Chenaille  
David Dominguez  
Gail Schuyler  
Kimberly Smalley  
Sheila Trapasso  
Ronald Waddell, Jr.

**Directors Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Jason Homer, Executive Director  
Sulma Rubert-Silva, Director for Administration and Operations  
Tressa Santillo, Director of Library Innovation and Public Services  
Liza French, Projects and Special Events Coordinator  
Jennifer Marien, Deputy Director for Adult Services  
Angela Bennett, Deputy Director for Youth Services

**Guests** Christine Murray, WPL Foundation Executive Director  
Lisa Malo, WPL Foundation Liaison

**1. Call to Order at 5:01 PM**

The meeting was called to order by President Stephanie Pasha at 5:01 PM

**2. Approval of April 22, 2026 Minutes**

President Pasha asked the WPL Board if there were any comments or questions about the April 22, 2026 minutes. Since there were none, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **MOTION TO APPROVE: Sheila Trapasso. SECONDED by Mary Chenaille.** She asked if there was any discussion on the minutes. Seeing none, she asked for a vote to approve the minutes and asked Directors in favor of passing the minutes to raise their hands. The votes were unanimous and the minutes were approved. Pasha thanked Secretary Roseann Fitzgerald for her work on the minutes.

**3. Report of the Board President (Pasha)**

May is Jewish American Heritage Month and Asian American Pacific Islanders Month. In honor of the month, President Pasha recited two quotations:

**“The opposite of love is not hate, it’s indifference. The opposite of art is not**

**ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference.” – Elie Wiesel**

**“In a time of destruction, create something” – Maxine Hong Kingston**

The WPL Board will plan a retreat in September or October. Please bring your calendars next month and we will decide on the date.

Congratulations to Jason and team...so much good news in the media and in this report!

Callout for me: Section 1.2 – Award winners! President Pasha loves how often we get to celebrate excellence and creativity!

**GBH Partnership: Section 1.3:** President Pasha asked the WPL Board to review Jason's response to the query about the GBH partnership, particularly bullets 3 and 4 which are copied below:

*The collaboration with GBH aligns directly with our mission. Libraries and journalists both serve critical roles in supporting an informed public, and this partnership creates opportunities for civic conversations, educational programming and community engagement around local issues. This is a partnership, not a landlord-tenant relationship.*

*At a time when access to trusted information is increasingly important, the Worcester Public Library remains committed to expanding public access to reliable information, civic dialogue, and community-centered learning opportunities.*

She asked the board to keep those paragraphs in mind if directors encounter folks in the community with questions about the partnership.

Section 2.1: President Pasha asked for more details about the Worcester Public Library Players, Pregnancy pop-up and Saint Paul Jr High visit. All are great examples of meeting people in the community where they are, love to see that outreach beyond branch walls.

**Section 2.2: Great examples of the important work librarians do. I can be a phone-a-friend reference for anyone doing a report on Taylor.**

Section 2.4: Pasha asked ED Home if there is anything of concern in the recruitment and employment activity, or normal turnover? Glad to see a few promotions in there. Congratulations on the Social Services Specialist hire!

Pasha concluded her report and asked if there were any questions. Ron Waddell asked what was the negative feedback on the GBH partnership. Pasha responded that there was some consternation from City Hall and the business community about GBH leaving rental space in the City of Worcester. Pasha asked if there were any other questions. Since there were none, she requested the report from the Executive Director.

#### 4. Report of the Executive Director (Homer)

ED addressed President Pasha's questions.

**Employment:** In regard to employment activity, the WPL is in a pretty neutral space and there have been a number of internal promotions. Despite the financial challenges of the Holden sewer decision and 2026 snow removal costs, priority positions have been approved. Excited to announce that the social worker position started yesterday.

**WPL Players:** Katelyn Duncan is working with Holy Cross on this initiative. He noted that in one week there were seven meetings with various people from Holy Cross. Sue Hunt, the president of the WPL Foundation is the Director of Government and Community Relations at Holy Cross. The College is working on being more embedded in the community. WPL Players involves English learners performing plays and it has been a fun, cool project.

**WPL Award Winners:** (1.2): New Americans Librarian Katelyn Duncan was named a [Library Journal](#) Award Winner in the Mover and Shaker/Change Agent Category in May 2026. The WPL is the smallest library and ONLY municipal library to have "back to back" *Library Journal* honors! ED Jason Homer received the *Library Journal* Mover and Shaker/Change Agent Category in 2025. ED noted that there were four MA winners and that Katelyn Duncan's photo was on the cover of *Library Journal*.

Christina Connolly, Community Resource Manager, received a 2026 Thomas S. Green Public Service Award which she will receive on June 11<sup>th</sup> at the DCU Center which is open to the public. More information to come on the specific room. ED noted that WPL employees have received a Green Award three years in a row (Linnea Sheldon was a 2025 recipient and Katelyn Duncan received the award in 2024).

**ALA Core PR Exchange Award:** WPL's Peanuts display in October 2025 won in the Exhibits Category of the American Library Association's [ALA Core PR Xchange](#) within the budget bracket of libraries with \$1-\$10 million in municipal financing. In 2025, the WPL won an award for a new calendar produced by Adult Services staff.

**Stephanie Pasha – 2026 ALA Trustee Citation:** The ED announced that Stephanie Pasha has received the United for Libraries ALA Trustee Citation and will be publicly recognized for her contribution to libraries at the ALA Annual 2026 conference in June. ED shared his screen so that all attending the board meeting could read the criteria for the [ALA Trustee Citation](#). ED read the text of the ALA Trustee

Citation which was established in 1941 to recognize public library Trustees for distinguished service and each year, staff of public libraries are allowed to nominate. ED noted that he and Linnea Sheldon worked on the nomination together. In 2026, there are two awardees. Stephanie will join ED Jason Homer and Matthew Noe at the 2026 ALA Conference at the end of June 2026.

President Pasha thanked the ED and WPL staff for nominating her and noted that she is very honored to receive this award.

**City Council Budget Hearing:** ED noted that last Tuesday was the Budget Hearing for the WPL. The WPL was last on the agenda and ED answered questions at 11:45 PM. He noted that Mayor Petty was not able to attend the meeting, so the senior-most member of the City Council Khrystian King presided. He issued some chairman orders that ED answered after the meeting concluded.

**Website Update:** ED noted that the federal government extended the deadline for website accessibility until April 2027. The WPL still hopes to finish the website in the Summer 2026 and will present the new website at the June board meeting. ED recommended that a new picture of the WPL board be taken which happened that evening.

**Telegram & Gazette Archive:** ED concluded his report with an update on his negotiations with Newsbank to access a full, indexed, and searchable digital version of the Telegram and Evening Gazette historical archives. He discovered that Newsbank was willing to sell the Telegram/Evening Gazette archive to the WPL in perpetuity. After 18 months of negotiations, Newsbank requested \$1.2 million which was out of the WPL's price range. In the trial access (which was not promoted), there were about 700,000 articles accessed from the database which was the #1 database at the Worcester Public Library. Although the trial was not promoted, professors at area colleges accessed the database for their classes/research. ED noted that a few months ago, a Worcester local business owner approached the WPL because they wanted to research their family's business through the local newspapers. Chrissy Murray and ED Homer met with the individual and designed a capital campaign to raise funds to purchase the archive for just under \$700,000. Chrissy Murray submitted a number of proposals to various foundations. ED noted that Worcester had two daily papers, the *Worcester Telegram* and *The Evening Gazette*, which had two different versions. ED ended that he looks forward to making this happen.

**Update on Great Brook Valley Library Construction:** ED distributed two photos which showed that the building is under construction. ED noted that the Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet in the next two or three weeks to review the construction in detail. During the Summer/Fall, the WPL staff will choose furniture and carpeting. Although the builder plans a May 2027 opening. ED does not expect the new library will be open by that date. The City Manager is aware of this new budget need and ED suggested that the whole board review the budget of the new

library to make sure that the staffing/costs are reflective of the new space. He noted that two staff members can no longer run the new space.

Questions? Ron Waddell asked about the size of the new space. ED noted that the full build out is just under 4,200 sq feet with a public space of about 2,700 sq. feet.

President Pasha asked if there were any more questions on the ED's report. She also asked Liza French, the Recording Secretary, to introduce herself to the full board. Liza said that she began her position as projects and special events coordinator in February 2026. Previously, she worked in the Borrower Services department and prior to that in Worcester's Division of Youth Opportunities. President Pasha thanked Liza and the ED for his report.

## **5. Report of the Administration Committee Report (Nicole Miller)**

Laura Nicole Miller reported that the Administration Committee met on May 13, 2026. Laura noted that Administration Committee discussed the GBH Partnership and there was no action needed by the board at this time.

Safety Issues: Miller noted that the WPL and City of Worcester should celebrate getting a safety manager in next year's budget. She also noted that having three security guards has significantly calmed things down at the WPL.

The Admin Committee discussed the reimbursement process for President Pasha's trip to the American Library Association Conference.

There was a discussion on the Library Trust Funds. ED mentioned that the City Manager issued a budget freeze which slows down purchase anything non-essential.

Library Trust Funds: The City of Worcester's Finance Department has interpreted that they oversee the Library's Trust Funds. The City Manager has not clarified his intent. The Admin Committee and President Pasha expressed concern over this. They agreed to get legal counsel to review trust oversight by the Board's Finance Committee to ensure that the WPL board is clear on how these funds are managed and by whom. The President will seek out legal counsel in conjunction with the review and updating needs of the Library's By-Laws.

Nicole Miller completed her report. President Pasha asked if there were any questions. Since there were none, she requested the report from the Finance Committee.

## **6. Report of the Finance Committee (Noe)**

Matthew Noe reported that the Finance Committee met on May 11, 2026 at the Frances Perkins Branch of the WPL. The meeting was the annual review with

Bartholomew & Company, the firm that manages all the trust funds for the City of Worcester, including the WPL Trust Funds. The representative said that despite the issues with the economy, the WPL Trust Funds are doing well with gains and losses and in a good place for long term management. The WPL is not overspending and plans to stay the course on the current investment strategy. Noe asked the WPL board to feel free to contact him if the WPL board needs additional details.

**Update to Staff Development/Continuing Education Policy:** Noe noted that the Finance Committee reviewed the policy because Trust Funds are being utilized for staff development and continuing education. Noe noted that the only revision is on the second page of the policy. Language was added: *A grade of “Pass” in a pass/fail course shall be considered equivalent to an A and eligible for 75% tuition reimbursement.* That language was not previously in the policy and needed to be in the policy going forward.

President Pasha thanked Noe for his report and added that Bartholomew does a very good job and gave a very thorough presentation. Pasha asked when the Noe receives updates. Noe noted that Bartholomew sends quarterly updates on the Trust Funds to him and members of the Finance Committee, but Sulma at the WPL receives more regular updates. Noe concluded that the WPL Trust Funds are restricted to WPL needs, not the City of Worcester’s needs.

President Pasha asked if the WPL board had questions for Noe. Since there was none, she requested.

## **7. Report of the Legislative Committee (Trapasso)**

Sheila Trapasso noted that the Committee met on May 6, 2026. ED distributed a handout on State-Wide government resources issued by the Mass Board of Library Commissioners and the fiscal pressures faced by municipalities.

They discussed two pending bills in the Massachusetts Senate: S. 2330 which addressed the challenges facing public libraries regarding digital resources, and Bill S. 2328 which addresses free expression in schools and libraries. This bill focuses on the banning of books and other stipulations regarding free expression.

The Committee discussed planning an early evening cocktail reception (which was formerly the legislative breakfast) which will be held in the Fall 2026 on a date to be determined. The format will include various stations at the event so the legislators can understand all the facets of the Worcester Public Library and the Talking Book Library.

There was a recommendation that a station on the “State of the Library” be included at the Democratic State Convention at the DCU Center on May 30, 2026.

## **8. Report of the Friends of the Worcester Public Library (Dominguez)**

David Dominguez reported that the Friend of the WPL met on May 19<sup>th</sup> and the full board was in attendance, including the new four members of the Board.

They reported revenue of \$4,111. They sent out letters to new members and discussed modeling their social media outreach on the WPL Foundation's social media posts. The Friends signed the contract to manager the Xerox copying/faxing at the WPL. In the copier, they discovered \$24,000 in cash that was not collected from the previous vendor. At Frances Perkins, they discovered \$1,600 from faxes sent at the Library.

ED explained that the vendor who managed the copier/fax stopped picking up money years ago. The firm has been sold multiple times and are no longer interested in serving public libraries. It is profitable for the Friends to manage the copying/faxing since they will receive \$8,000 to \$9,000 a year from patrons. ED credited Mike, the WPL's IT professional, for helping move the contract to the Friends and working with the City's Compliance offices. ED explained that the Friends take over the cost of stocking the printers and the Friends receive the income from copying/printing and the goal is to watch the cash flow so that expenses meet income received.

He announced that a book sale at Frances Perkins will be on Monday, June 29, 2026. The Friends plan to have a table in the City's Out to Lunch Festival this summer.

Pasha thanked Dominguez for his good report and requested the Foundation report.

## **9. Report of the Worcester Public Library Foundation (Fitzgerald/Murray)**

Roseann Fitzgerald reported that WPL Foundation board met on May 20, 2026. President Sue Hunt congratulated the Foundation's events committee for the successful Mini-Golf event on May 1 and May 2. Attendance was very good. 175 people attended the Friday evening event and on Saturday, 100 people showed up at the door. Chrissy Murray noted that in 2026, all the holes were sponsored by not at the same levels as past mini-golf events. Additional monies were raised through a raffle, and the events committee will analyze the results to decide what to do at future events.

**Save the Date for the WPL Foundation Annual Meeting on 9/17/2026.** Carol Rose, the executive director of the ACLU of Massachusetts will be the featured speaker.

There was a discussion on the funding of the Telegram/Evening Gazette archives. Murray noted that she has received many positive communications from the foundation community about this project. She submitted proposals to four local foundations. She spoke with Alan Fletcher who is excited about the project and is willing to lend his name to the effort. She plans additional reach outs to foundations and also local businesses.

The WPL Foundation is hiring a bookkeeper and working closely with WPL staff on the website redesign.

Harlee Chandler asked Chrissy Murray if the WPL Foundation requests support from vendors of the WPL. Murray said that the WPL does receive support from some vendors, but she plans her asks strategically. She noted that although the WPL Foundation has attracted new sponsors, some sponsors also paused their giving (and may return another year).

President Pasha reminded the WPL Board that when Chrissy is filling out the grant applications, it is important that she can check the box that everyone on the WPL Board supports the WPL. Please continue to support the Foundation and the Friends of the WPL. It is not about the amount; it is about the participation. Please do what you can. It goes a long way.

#### 10. **Old Business**

Roseann Fitzgerald asked about the circulation data submitted with the Director's Report. ED noted that 2026 is the first year print circulation is dropping. The number one book distributor in the country closed this year. There has been significant cost volatility and shipment delays. He also noted that eBook pricing has been increasing and eBooks take up more than 1/3 of the WPL's circulation. Although circulation and visit numbers are down, the WPL staff are working to manage the situation and encourage more visitors to participate in WPL programming.

Harlee Chandler asked if there is anyway the WPL could promote itself on the WRTA buses? ED responded that WPL staff has already been working with the WRTA and the Sustainability office (Pond and Recreation space programming). Tara and Megan in *One City One Library* are working with these two offices to promote the library. ED noted that there will be more to come on this.

#### 11. **New Business**

Pasha thanked ED for the update and asked about the dates for 2026 Summer Reading. ED responded that the WPL summer programming starts on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The WPL is not planning a reading challenge but focusing on creating programming to bring people to the WPL.

Pasha asked the board to stay after the meeting to take the group photo. She then requested a motion to adjourn. **MOTION TO ADJOURN by Matthew Noe and SECONDED by Kimberly Smalley.** The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 PM

#### 12. **Adjournment at 6:09 PM**

Respectfully submitted,  
R. Fitzgerald