

**Kirkland Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
February 16, 2026**

Board present: Jean Bauer, Clare Hay, Sally Jones, Becky Lamont, Marian Termini, Lori Finkle, Colleen Olson (formerly Kreinbrink)

Board absent: none

Others present: Tina Weaver, Chris So, Rosi Reintz

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Board President Bauer.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the January meeting were reviewed by all. Colleen moved to approve the minutes and Sally seconded. All were in favor. The minutes of a special meeting on February 3 were reviewed. Sally moved to approve the minutes and Colleen seconded. All were in favor.

Public Comment: Linda Fett spoke about the Kirkland Historical Society only wanting artifacts that have a personal connection to somebody from Kirkland. The arrowheads in the library would be something they would not take for that reason. Linda proposed we use donated funds to set up little libraries in five different places in Kirkland communities. She gave a photo of what they'll look like.

Financial Report: Tina Weaver went over the finances for January of 2026, noting a few specific items to clarify. The balance on January 31, was \$108,772.56. Sally questioned whether books ordered with the 12 percent of our budget can be used for giveaways, such as at Trunk or Treat or for the little libraries, or do they have to stay in the building for checking out. We also asked if periodicals are included in that 12 percent. Chris is going to get answers to these questions. Budget is at 75 percent of our fiscal year. We are still expecting to be refunded or credited for the overpay on the workman's comp insurance. Sally motioned to approve the January financial report and Clare seconded. Report approved.

Director's Report: For January 2026

- Ninety-seven patrons visited the library and 192 items were checked out with 44 items requested through Sierra.
- Twelve attended children's story time.
- Five new library cards issued.
- No report on winter reading challenge or grownup book club. Discussion about getting series books ahead of time. Linda Fett still orders the books. Books will be getting delivered to library rather than a residence. Colleen will suggest a few series titles to Chris. Then some discussion about where books from the basement go for recycle or sale. Some discussion about stacks of books in the vault that are not on the shelves yet and may not be for several months. Linda has a protocol for it all. Clare moved to approve director's report and Sally seconded. All were in favor.

Old Business:

- a. **Budget discussion and adoption--** We will adopt and turn in our planned budget with the understanding that we may have to amend it later. We considered adopting budget without any contingency because they did not give us time or needed information to make changes to the budget. We talked briefly about the common or "party" wall and who would be responsible for damage. We would think it would be 50/50? Sally reported that Gary Ecklund did not receive a copy of the legal document regarding selling library though it was indicated the village would do so in the email with legal document, presuming Ecklund was our attorney. Tina pointed out that our payroll expenses have increased by about \$20,000 in the last four years. She also pointed out the

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board made wage decisions prior to those four years. We agreed that there will not likely be raises this year with so many questions unanswered. Lori suggested we call utility companies to ask for the yearly average on this property. Sally motioned to adopt the current budget indicated for the fiscal year of May 1, 2026 to April 30, 2027 as discussed, and Colleen seconded. All were in favor of adopting budget. Sally will deliver to village in person.

- b. Plan of sale of library-- Jean relayed that she and Sally met with attorney Scott Becker about the village board plan to sell the library. Becker suggests we look at it as an opportunity since it's a take-it-or-leave-it option. Jean will be listed as a speaker at the next village board meeting which was this night at 7 pm, but has been moved to one week later. Becker recommends we have the building inspected which could cost between \$300 and \$500. We will ask the village about the cost for utilities. We should also consider an appraisal on building for insurance purposes. Lori thinks there was one done about a year ago. These are things we have not budgeted for so we asked Tina if we may amend the budget after it has been adopted. Lori expressed a need to find out how the village came to this decision to sell. Lori clarified that we will still be under the village board as far as our budget and tax levy. We think the air conditioning bill sent them into discussion to offload the library. We still need to know about electric, gas, water and sewer bills the village pays. We also noted that the village does not give a treasurer's report in their public meetings. Jean will ask the "why they want to sell" in her address to the village board. The fee to file a deed is on us.

New Business:

- a. Friend of the Library fundraiser-- planned for Thursday evening, May 28, 2026. The "Red Horse" band will perform from 5 to 8 pm. Tickets are \$14 and \$5. No Mary Stevens grant as we have in the past. No tea party planned for this year. Jean asked if she could get a motion to go ahead with the inspection of the library. Lori asked what they will inspect for and we agreed they'll probably check everything like when buying a house. Discussion ensued about the mold in the basement. Becky asked who typically pays for an inspection, but since contract reads "as is" it would be at our cost. What would the inspection change other than us knowing what we are in for? Any repairs will be at our cost. More discussion about dehumidifiers not being on when they're supposed to be on indefinitely as indicated in a prior meeting. Several members went downstairs to look for mold and came back a few minutes later. The dehumidifiers had been unplugged and moved to a corner. Sally made a motion to get an inspection and Colleen seconded. Six were in favor, one abstained. Motion to get inspection passed. Further comments about bathroom door and front door needing repairs.

Adjournment: Sally moved to adjourn the meeting and Clare seconded. All were in favor and meeting ended at 7:37 pm.

Submitted by

Marian Termini
Secretary