

CITY OF NORWALK
LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MAY 14, 2026
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Moina Noor, Alex Knopp, Jannie Williams, Laurel Peterson, Mary Mann, Heroldo Williams, Hailey Roy

STAFF: Sherelle Harris (Library Director)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Moina Noor called the Regular Meeting of the Norwalk Public Library Board of Directors to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

A roll call was performed. Present at the meeting were Moina Noor, Alex Knopp, Jannie Williams, Laurel Peterson, Mary Mann, Hailey Roy, and Sherelle Harris. Heroldo Williams joined the meeting during Public Participation. A quorum was present.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes of the April 9, 2026 meeting. Board members noted several spelling and name corrections that needed to be made throughout the document. Laurel Peterson made a motion to table the minutes until the corrections could be completed and reviewed at the next meeting. Jannie Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation comments are not verbatim and represent a summarization of statements unless otherwise noted.

The meeting opened with a moment of silence in memory of former Library Board Chair and member Stan Siegel, who passed away earlier in the month.

Chair Noor recognized Library Director Sherelle Harris for recently receiving an award from the Hope Foundation in Stamford in recognition of her service and commitment to the community.

Board members and current and former library staff members offered remarks recognizing Director Harris' leadership, mentorship, and contributions to the Norwalk community.

Director Harris introduced Julianne "Julie" Foy, the City's new Chief of Community Services. Ms. Foy shared her professional background in education, social services, and nonprofit leadership and expressed enthusiasm about working collaboratively with the Library and Board.

Public Participation was closed.

V. REPORTS

A. PRESIDENT

1. EAGLES PARKING

Chair Noor reported that there were no significant updates regarding Eagles parking at this time.

2. LIBRARY RENOVATION BUDGET

Chair Noor reported that Board members continue to seek clarification regarding previously allocated funding for library expansion planning and architectural services. Director Harris and Chair Noor have followed up with City

officials regarding the status and placement of the funding within the City budget. Discussion was held regarding the remaining balance and possible connections to prior settlement obligations.

3. HISTORY ROOM DEDICATION

Chair Noor reported that the Ralph Bloom History Room dedication remains scheduled for June 9, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. Director Harris noted that although the elevator project has been delayed, the dedication event can still proceed as planned.

B. LIBRARY DIRECTOR

1. STAN SIEGEL, PAST LIBRARY BOARD CHAIR AND MEMBER

Director Harris shared remarks honoring former Board Chair and member Stan Siegel and reflected on his contributions to the South Norwalk Library renovation project, donor partnerships, and community support efforts. Board members Alex Knopp and Jannie Williams also shared memories of working with Mr. Siegel and recognized his dedication to the Library and the Norwalk community.

2. FYE 2027 OPERATING BUDGET UPDATE

Director Harris reviewed updates related to the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 operating budget. She reported that several requested increases, including funding for books, programming, food, and educational supplies, were partially reduced during the budget review process. Funding requested for part-time staffing remained unchanged at this stage.

3. FYE 2026 OUTSTANDING CAPITAL PROJECTS

Director Harris reviewed updates regarding ongoing capital projects, including the Main Library preservation project, ADA-compliant parking improvements, technology upgrades, the electric library van, and other outstanding technology and facility-related projects.

4. ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY

Director Harris presented updates regarding the One Book, One Community program. Staff reported strong support for selecting the novel Atmosphere for the upcoming community read and discussed the possibility of pairing the program with astronomy-related events and a virtual author appearance.

5. RECIPROCARD

Director Harris reviewed information regarding ReciproCard and explained that many of its functions are already available through Libby and existing library partnerships. Staff determined that while the service may be useful in some larger regional systems, the Library already offers similar access opportunities through its current digital resources.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Director Harris shared that several library staff members recently attended an event at the State Capitol related to literacy volunteers and library technology demonstrations.

Raven participated in demonstrating the Cricut machine and received positive feedback from attendees and legislators. Director Harris thanked the staff members who attended and represented the Library.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Laurel Peterson and seconded by Mary Mann. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jada Caballero
Recording Secretary