

**CITY OF NORWALK  
LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
JANUARY 8, 2026  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE:** Haroldo Williams, Laurel Peterson, Janie Williams, Alex Knopp, Mary Mann, Moina Noor, Patsy Brescia

**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 Haroldo Williams, Laurel Peterson, Jannie Williams, Alex Knopp, Mary Mann, Moina Noor, and Sherelle Harris. Patsy Brescia joined the meeting following roll call due to technical difficulties. A quorum was present.

**III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Alex Knopp moved and Mary Mann seconded. During discussion, Patsy Brescia noted that she was not present during the December meeting date.

**IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public at present.

**V. REPORTS**

**A. PRESIDENT**

**1. HISTORY ROOM NAMING EVENT**

Chair Noor presented proposed wording for a plaque recognizing Ralph C. Bloom for establishing the Norwalk History Room in 1972 and for his contributions to preserving and sharing Norwalk's historical record through the Norwalk Public Library. A motion was made to approve the plaque verbiage as presented. Mary Mann seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Chair Noor and Director Harris will coordinate the ordering of the plaque and the scheduling of the dedication event. A tentative date of January 28 was discussed; however, members noted that the event may need to be postponed until February depending on production timing.

## **2. GARR BEQUEST ROOM NAMING LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS**

Chair Noor provided an update on the legislative approval process associated with the Garr Bequest Room naming. She reported that a tentative schedule has been prepared, including presentation to the Land Use Committee on February 3, a public hearing on March 3, and consideration by the Common Council on April 10. Chair Noor stated that she will draft a memorandum to the Land Use Committee and circulate it to Board members prior to the February meeting for review and comment.

## **3. WEATHER RELATED CLOSING PROCEDURES**

Chair Noor reviewed recent weather-related library closures and discussed the need for clearer procedures regarding decision-making authority, communication protocols, staffing considerations, and patron safety during inclement weather. Discussion included coordination with the City regarding road conditions and parking lot plowing, the importance of timely notification to staff and patrons, and the posting of closure information through the library website, signage, phone messaging, and, where possible, the City website. Members also discussed uncertainty regarding whether the Board should continue to be responsible for closure decisions on weekends.

A motion was made to seek guidance from Corporation Counsel regarding authority and procedures for library closings, including weekends. Patsy Brescia moved and Haroldo Williams seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Chair Noor stated she will consult Corporation Counsel and report back to the Board.

### **B. LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

#### **1. 2026 BOARD MEETING DATES**

Ms. Harris presented proposed meeting dates for 2026. It was noted that meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of each month. A suggestion was made to include an August meeting and cancel it later if unnecessary. Patsy Brescia moved and Alex Knopp seconded to approve the 2026 meeting dates as presented, including August 13. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **2. CARNEGIE LIBRARY GRANT**

Director Harris announced that the Carnegie Corporation is awarding \$10,000 grants to Carnegie Libraries in recognition of Norwalk's 250th anniversary. As Norwalk has two Carnegie libraries, the total expected grant amount is \$20,000. It was noted that the funds will be received by the Library Foundation and that any restrictions associated with the grant have not yet been identified.

### **3. ACTING DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT**

Ms. Harris announced that Luis Ayala has been appointed Acting Director of Adult Library Services following the retirement of Cynde Lahey. Director Harris noted that Mr. Ayala has been with Norwalk Public Library since 2000 and shared his professional background and experience. Board members discussed that the appointment is temporary and inquired about next steps for the position.

### **4. BUDGET UPDATE**

Ms. Harris reported that there were no budget updates at this time due to her recent return. She noted that a special meeting may be scheduled if necessary.

### **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

Under old business, a reminder was raised regarding moving forward with the bookstore initiative. It was noted that Moina Noor and Patsy Brescia are authorized to sign on behalf of the library and the foundation. Chair Noor stated that the project remains a priority and that an update is anticipated by the next meeting.

### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jada Caballero  
Recording Secretary