

**Lansdowne Public Library Meeting Minutes**  
**July 15, 2025**

**Attendance:** Sarah Berkowitz, Marie Campuzano, Mark Lewis, Ellen Lustgarten, Bill Paterson, Regina Powers, Julian Shendelman, and Jobi Zink were in attendance. Will Griffin, Borough liaison, did not attend.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M.

**Nominations for Vacant Positions**

Kymerly Hernandez completed her board service leaving a vacancy for Vice Chair. The Vice-Chair is responsible for running board meetings in the absence of the Chair, and also chairs the Governance Committee, which meets on an as-needed basis. Ellen nominated Mark Lewis for the position. Jobi seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion, and Mark accepted the position. Kymerly will provide Mark with Governance Committee information.

The Advocacy Chair position is also vacant. This position was previously held by Kate Schleigh and involves writing to elected politicians at the local and county levels and following the budget process. The board will discuss filling this position at the September meeting.

**Minutes**

There were no corrections or changes to the June meeting minutes. There were no objections and the minutes were approved

**Treasurer's report**

Ellen provided the Treasurer's report for June. The account balances for June 30 were as follows:

\$ 43,031.91	Checking Account
\$ 12,075.52	Money Market
\$148,095.92	PA Invest
\$87,205.94	Vanguard

\$290,499.29 Total assets.

**June YTD Budget vs. Actual Report**

Ellen reported that Vanguard had an excellent quarter. The budget vs. actuals for the year should be at about 50% of the projected totals and look to be on target. The library has brought in \$300 in notary services already (\$500 anticipated for the full year). Total income without

borough support is \$414,839. The Borough treasurer is on vacation this week so the report was not available. Total expenses were \$385,924 with \$33,429 towards the collection (8.66%)

Mark made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Jobi seconded the motion. There were no objections and motion carried.

### **DCLS Meeting**

The next DCLS meeting is Thursday August 21, 2025 at 6:30. Julian will attend via Zoom. Bill will send the contact information to Julian as Marie and Ellen will be away.

### **Friends of the Library**

There will be no Friends meeting in August. The next Friends of the Library meeting will be on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 7:00 Bany Room. Gillian is working on a new logo and separate website for the Friends. There will be a landing site for the Friends on the Library website, and links between the two.

### **Strategic Plan**

Mark reported that there have been 65 responses to the Strategic Plan survey. Most of the responses came through the Library and Friends newsletters; 10 responses came directly from the library website. Additional responses came from the Borough newsletter (4), direct links to the survey (8), and flyers (2). Mark reached out to numerous groups in town including the Boys & Girls Club, Ardmore Elementary School via ParentSquare, Left of Lansdowne, and LEDC. Mark encouraged the board to send links to any organizations or groups they are involved in and ask to share with membership. Mark will send a template letter to explain the importance of the survey via email. More flyers will be made available at the library front desk, and information about the survey will run in all of the August newsletters.

The board discussed the location, date and time for the October community survey group and decided on **7 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. Thursday, October 23 in the Bany Room**. From there, the group may break into smaller roundtables for group discussions. The exact questions and details of the survey group will be the focus of the September board meeting, but will be related to the direction of programs, events, and staffing to be addressed in the strategic plan without dependency or contingency on the building expansion. The board is encouraged to submit questions for community feedback to Mark.

The board agreed that the community survey groups should be open to the public, promoted widely throughout town organizations, but with an RSVP to attend required. This will allow the library to send an email reminder to ensure attendance. Ellen will ask Will to make an announcement at Borough Council.

### **Thank You**

Kymerly Hernandez was thanked for her 15 years of service on the library board. Kymerly expects to continue her involvement with the Ad Hoc Building Committee.

## **Board Photograph**

A photograph of the new and current board was taken for the library website.

## **Request for Reconsideration**

At the June meeting the board discussed potential political pressure on the library particularly towards its collection and programs. With the thought that there could be an increase in book challenges, the board reviewed the current policy for removing books from the collection.

The current Request for Reconsideration policy places a lot of burden on staff. Suggestions for changes to this policy included: removing the exact number of library staff required to review the challenge to the broader “library staff” (as is the language in other similar Delco library’s policy); removing the specified time frame for review; requiring the challenger to have a library card and live in Lansdowne, or our border towns of East Lansdowne, Yeadon, Aldan, Clifton Heights, and Upper Darby; limiting the number of active challenges per person (5); If a title is challenged and it is determined that the library will keep it, a new challenge on the title by another patron cannot be opened for 1 year.

The policy for reinstating a banned book was not fully discussed but will be reviewed in light of the collections management policy. Reference librarian Laura will research the existing policy and the board’s recommended changes with the policies of other libraries in Delaware County.

Bill said that the only recent objection to the books in the Lansdowne Library came a few years ago when a patron misunderstood the category of Graphic Novels. Graphic novels do not contain vivid descriptions of unseemly content, but feature drawn or illustrated content.

## **Director’s Report**

Bill shared an etching that was donated to the library. The library staff is working with the Friends on a Halloween Haunted House in the old library as a fundraiser. The haunted house will have a guide to assist, particularly if children are scared and need to exit. The parking lot will be barricaded to allow program activities such as pumpkin painting to occur in the lot of the old building. Staff will work on getting smoke detectors and fire extinguishers in the building for safety purposes, along with lighting for outdoors. Most of the money will be brought in through concession sales. The board was enthusiastic about the event.

## **Council Report**

There was no council report given as Will was not present.

## **Ad Hoc Building Committee**

The next Ad Hoc Building Committee meeting will likely be in September. All money brought in for the library project –whether Capital Campaign or grants–will flow through the Friends, our fundraising arm.

**Next Board meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 16 at 7 in the Bany Room. There will be no meeting in August.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

JZ

8/1/2025