

Lansdowne Public Library Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2026

Attendance: Sarah Berkowitz, Joe Green, Mark Lewis, Ellen Lustgarten, Bill Paterson, Julian Shendelman and Jobi Zink were in attendance. Marie Campuzano was absent. Councilman Ben Hover was also present.

In Marie's absence Vice-Chair Mark called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Ben Hover made two pre-meeting announcements. There will be a book give away at either the Farmer's Market or outside the library on April 25 to celebrate World Book Day. Additionally, there will be a resource table with information relevant to internet safety and health. On April 13 Adalai Joseph, the child of Holocaust survivors, will speak at Boro Hall. Ben said that this program was appropriate for 5th graders and above. Ben asked if the library could distribute flyers for the event and create a display of Holocaust related books.

Minutes

There were no corrections to the minutes from the February 2026 Library Board meeting. Ellen made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Joe, and with no objections, the motion carried.

Treasurer's report

Bills paid in February totaled \$2,414.48. \$1,592 (66%) was spent on collections including books, DVDs, processing supplies and vox books (audio books with a device).

Ellen provided the Treasurer's report for February. The account balances for February 28 were as follows:

\$5,595	Checking Account
\$12,103	Money Market
\$152,649	PA Invest
\$94,564	Vanguard
\$265,286	Total assets.

February YTD Budget vs. Actual Report

Total revenue for the month was \$139,313 including \$135,000 from the borough. Total expenses were \$1443,407, leaving a deficit of -\$4,094. 4% of the total expenses were for the collection. Ellen was not concerned about the deficit this early in the fiscal year.

Jobi made the motion to accept the treasure's report and the budget. Julian seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion was carried.

DCLS Meeting

Sarah will attend the DCLS meeting on Thursday April 16 via Zoom.

Mark reported that Delco Gives (May 7/8) was the big push for the March DCLS meeting. Bill said that the LEDC will be doing a borough-wide campaign to drive attention to Lansdowne organizations participating in Delco Gives but that each organization will keep the money they raise directly. At the end of the fundraising drive, an extra pool of money gets divided by the number of people who donate (regardless of their individual donation size). There is an option on the website to donate directly to the museum; however for this time period we will have that link redirect users to the Friends of the Library donation site. This will earn us more “credit” in the Delco Gives. Donations to the Friends our 501(c)3 is fully tax deductible while donations directly to the library are not tax deductible.

Board Recruitment

Mark reported that there are currently two applications for our board positions—the vacancy created with Regina’s resignation and Ellen’s term which will expire in June. A March 31 deadline has been announced on our website. Additionally, board recruitment has been posted as a flyer on the library door, through the borough newsletter, as well as the library newsletter. The application has changed from a handwritten form to a Google form.

The candidates will be discussed in an executive session (closed to the public) and voted in public at our April meeting.

Elevator Pitches

As we begin talking about the new library build and fundraising for it, Bill encouraged the board to have something personal to add to their basic ‘elevator pitch.’ Additionally, he is looking for stories that connect to people for grant writing and other fundraising opportunities. Andrea Kenyon is interviewing Ellen and Marie for the next Friends newsletter about the importance of the building expansion.

Julian clarified that the elevator pitch are cohesive talking points rather than a speech to memorize. Additionally, pitches should be tailored towards two different groups: those who go to and/or use the library services and those who do not use or know about the library. Julian suggested that a voicemail could be established for people who would prefer to leave a voice testimonial rather than a written one.

Directors Report

Bill opened a discussion about changing the name of the Lansdowne Public Library to include either Library Hub or Community Center (or both) to their name. The renaming would possibly open new sources of grant fundings. A name change would need to be approved by the borough. There was concern that “community center” has a connotation of including amenities like sports facilities and childcare, whereas “Community Resource Center” might convey more accuracy. It may become home to Lansdowne’s historical collections. Jobi expressed concern that a name change at this juncture may upset the public who were not asked about it on the public survey, or increase complaints that X millions

of dollars was spent but the library doesn't include A, B, or C. Mark said that how we position the library will be strategic.

Bill, Borough Manager Debbie Brodeur, and Council Person Janye Young will meet with the Havertown Library Team, including their new director who was not part of the process, to discuss their \$20M expansion project tomorrow (March 18).

Bill suggested that the public facing timeline of the Library Board's Strategic Plan may need to be flexible, as internal priorities regarding the build are shuffled. A reminder that it is a living document might suffice. There is nothing in the SP that is contingent on the new building, but there is nothing that says the new build cannot shuffle the SP priorities and deadlines.

Bill reported that the Library is not included in the borough's updated Social Media Policy requiring borough approval before posting.

The remediation of the oil smell in the old building is scheduled to be treated early next week. The first treatment was done in the fall, but the second treatment was never applied as the person who worked on the treatment left the company.

Bill provided an update on a problem patron who was banned from the library for one week. Bill did not believe that the ban would resolve the patron's behavioral issues. John will look into whether the Lansdowne Police Department has connections to social workers at Elwyn who may be able to assist.

Library staff will have training in administering Narcan in April. This training is being presented by the county and is free. Staff did administer Narcan to a patron earlier this month. The patron recovered and returned the next day to thank the staff member for saving their life.

Council Report

John clarified for the board that he was the borough liaison for the library, but both he and Jayne Young, along with Carol Martsoff are on the Ad Hoc Building Committee. Jayne did attend the previous Library Board meeting while John was absent. Jayne also attended the Friends of the Library meeting to start the discussion about thinking bigger—strategies and major donors—for the library build.

John reported that Tim Snyder, who worked on the Middletown and Upper Dublin Library projects agreed to do some *pro bono* fundraising work for us.

John reported that there was a request from the Professional Business Association to use the green space between the Library and the SEPTA lot for the Night Market to be held on June 13. Previously, the library staff wanted to use a portion of this space for a community garden but that project has not begun and the space would be available. The green space does not belong to the library, so it is not up to the board to approve this request. If the request is approved by council, the library can support the event by making flyers accessible.

Sarah asked who decides the make-up of *ad hoc* committees. John explained that committees are initiated by Council President and can comprise 3 board members; any more than 3 would be a quorum. The library is not limited in the number of members it can appoint to the ad hoc building committee.

Public Comments

The board discussed clarifying our public comment policy as it was unclear whether Ben Hover was speaking as Councilman or as a member of the public. Council requests should be relayed via our council liaison. Anything requiring a vote or decision by the board should be submitted as an agenda item in advance of the meeting. Other public comments should be heard at the end of the meeting, per the agenda. Library staff determines the internal displays of books.

Next Board meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 21 at 7 in the Bany Room.

Ellen made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Julian and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

JZ

4/9/26