

Lansdowne Public Library Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2026

Attendance: Sarah Berkowitz, Marie Campuzano, John Green, Mark Lewis, Ellen Lustgarten, Bill Paterson, Julian Shendelman and Jobi Zink were in attendance.

Marie called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Minutes

Marie previously alerted Jobi that she had misnamed John in the March minutes. Jobi corrected this. Ellen made a motion to accept the revised minutes. The motion was seconded by Sarah and with no objections, the motion carried.

Treasurer's report

Bills paid in February totaled \$4,652. \$4,100 (88%) was spent on collections including books, DVDs, and renewals.

Ellen provided the Treasurer's report for March. The account balances for March 31 were as follows:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| \$52,913 | Checking Account This included \$49,999 in state funding |
| \$12,118 | Money Market |
| \$153,135 | PA Invest |
| \$91,943 | Vanguard The Q1 statement from Vanguard was down about \$4,000 which was not surprising given the current market. |
| \$310,109 | Total assets. |

March YTD Budget vs. Actual Report

We are through the first quarter of the year and the budget vs. actuals reflect about 25% of predicted budget, including 23% income from Friends and fees, and 22% from the borough.

Total revenue for the month was \$265,255. Total expenses were \$221,444 leaving a net of \$43,811. 4.2% of the total expenses were for the collection.

The Library pre-paid for Hoopla at the end of the year. The first bill has come in and we may need to consider reallocating funds or reducing the number of checkouts allowed. This raised several questions. Hoopla is a digital platform that allows library card holders free access to e-books, audiobook, music, movies, TV shows and more. While free to the user, the library pays for Hoopla. Hoopla provides statistics such as the total number of borrows, number of unique users, average check-outs per patron new Hoopla users, trending titles within the library system, and circulation by format.

Many patrons do not know what Hoopla is, nor is there anything specific directing patrons to it on our website.

REMINDERS

DCLS Meeting

Jobi will attend the DCLS meeting on Thursday June 18 via Zoom.

Friends of the Lansdowne Public Library

The Friends are hosting their Book and Bake Sale May 1-3 at the “old” library. Friday is a member preview in the evening. The sale will be on Saturday from 9-3 and Sunday from 11-2. Bakers and volunteers are still wanted.

The Friends are participating in Delco Gives, a fundraising effort for nonprofit organizations in Delaware County hosted by the Foundation for Delaware County. The event takes place on-line May 6-7. As always, all funds donated through the Friends indirectly supports the library.

The next Friends meeting will be on May 4, time TBD.

Strategic Plan

Mark will send the public-facing version of the Strategic Plan can be posted to the library website. Mark will send the document to the board as well. The board discussed whether or not to dedicate an entire newsletter to the strategic plan, but as there is already a DelcoGives specific newsletter forthcoming it was decided to fold this information in with the regular newsletter for May.

Mark and Marie will discuss how/when to include items from the strategic plan—and steps the board needs to take in order to succeed—on the board agenda to ensure that we follow through with the plan.

Action Item: Post the Strategic Plan to the Library website.

Governance/Board Recruitment

Mark reported that we had 9 applicants for the 2 board vacancies. Unfortunately, one of the candidates was a Yeadon resident and was therefore not eligible for a board position. It was suggested that the borough might be receptive to a proposal to add another member to the Library Board.

The board discussed which questions they would ask each candidate. The board also discussed what our priorities are for new board members. Strength and skills in finance, fundraising, marketing would be assets as we move forward with the new building project, as would the level of involvement and time commitments. Candidates who are more interested in volunteering for programs may be steered to joining the Friends of the Library.

The board will discuss the candidates in an executive session (closed to the public) at the May meeting. Board members should be prepared to rank their candidates and highlight what skills, viewpoints, and strengths each will bring to the board. The voting of the candidates will occur during the open portion of the meeting.

Action item: Board should be prepared to rank the candidates, and explain what skills and strengths the candidates bring.

DCLS Report

This week is National Library Week (Thank you Bill and the entire staff of the Lansdowne Public Library for all of the amazing work that you do!) Sarah reported that three Delaware County libraries received state grants. She also said that there may be changes to the state money justification coming within the next two years. Right now the county office is doing most of the work.

Ellen mentioned that she, Bill, and Marie sent a letter to the county several weeks ago suggesting a change in the auditing system that would allow the Library to accept the \$50,000 in county aid offered to us without requiring a full audit (which effectively reduces the aid by \$7,000). Bill has not yet had a reply.

Director's Report

Bill announced that an Ad Hoc Building Committee meeting was scheduled for 6 PM tomorrow, April 22. This meeting is open to the public. The proposal outlining the division of labor between the Borough, Library, Friends and consultants will be discussed. This division of resources will then be discussed by the Borough. John said that the Community Development and Recreation Committee will collaborate when there are action items.

Bill is working on a two-paged Case for Support, identifying the deficiencies of the existing library and the data to confirm this. John said that he had experience with these letters and could assist.

Our Library, Our Stories is launching to collect personal stories about people's involvement with the library. The staff is also working on the Halloween Fair with an Egyptian theme and a Civics Fair (a request from council). Staff participated in a free Narcan training on Monday. Bill reported that the staff feel more confident in administering this life-saving drug to prevent opioid overdoses. Sarah asked if a similar training could be offered to the public.

Report from Council

John reported that there was a drop box at Borough Hall to collect donations for Cradles to Crayons through the end of the week. Council reached out to 9 groups to offer a Sexual Assault Forum, but have not scheduled anything at this time. Council is discussing the possibility of renting the Twentieth Century Clubs for council, library, and/or community events. The previous rental protocol requires revisions. Cindy Seiko provided an excellent CPR training program.

Good and Welfare

Jobi praised the *How to Citizen: Voting* program offered last week, and was pleased that one of the attendees was a high school senior who would be 18 before the general election in November.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Next Board meeting

Due to the primary elections on Tuesday, May 12, the next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 13 at 7 in the Bany Room.

Ellen made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by John and the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 P.M.

JZ

5/7/26