

**INDIANAPOLIS-MARION COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
JULY 27, 2026**

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The Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library Board met in person at the East Washington Branch Library, 2822 East Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, on Monday, July 27, 2026 at 6:30 p.m., pursuant to notice given in accordance with the rules of the Board.

1. Call To Order

Mr. Biederman presided as President and called the meeting to order. Dr. Riolo acted as Secretary.

2. Roll Call

Members present: Mr. Biederman, Ms. Johnson, Dr. Murtadha, Dr. Palacio, Dr. Riolo and Dr. White.

Members absent: Ms. Woodard.

The Chair recognized a quorum.

Mr. Biederman commented that he wished to recognize the Library staff across the system for another outstanding Summer Reading Program. We exceeded our goal of 22 million minutes as a reading community. As of today, we're at 25 million minutes. He reminded everyone that there was still time to log in and post more minutes. Mr. Biederman also spoke about how the Library supports students via our Shared System, which connects 91 public and private schools, museums and special libraries with IndyPL. The Shared System makes over two million physical items and 340,000 e-books and audiobooks available to students.

Dr. Murtadha thanked the staff at Central Library for a great Day of Chess event. She also mentioned reading to children at the Wayne Branch recently. She encouraged everyone to read to children.

3. Branch Manager's Report and Area Overview

a. East Washington Branch Report

Ms. Masada Sparrow, Manager, East Washington Branch, provided some information about their branch and community as follows:

- The East Washington Branch, dedicated in 1911, was one of the five branches

constructed with a \$120,000 grant from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. The building was renovated in 2017 which included installing an elevator to make the building ADA compliant.

- The branch serves a population of 13,910 which is 46% people of color.
- The branch partners with nearby schools for back-to-school events and resource fairs. They also partner with Westminster Food Bank to periodically provide food in the branch parking lot.

b. Digital Marketing Report

Ms. Mary Barr, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer, and Mr. Justin Clark, Senior Manager of Digital Marketing and Analytics, shared their Digital Marketing Report for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, 2026, as follows:.

- Digital Marketing is composed of email marketing, e-newsletters, and website content.
- By publishing two all-patron newsletters per month during the first and second quarters in 2026, impressions increased by 55% compared with the same timeframe in 2025, when we published one per month.
- The Communications and Marketing team tracks the impact of digital marketing efforts, noting an increase in event attendance. For example, the Juneteenth Book Fest had 222 attendees in 2025 and 345 attendees in 2026.

4. Public Comment

a. Public Comment (Name and summary of comments follows)

There were no petitions to come before the Board.

5. Approval Of Minutes: Executive Session, Regular and Special Meetings

a. Regular Meeting, June 22, 2026

At this time, the minutes from the Regular Meeting held June 22, 2026, were approved on the motion of Dr. Riolo, seconded by Dr. White, and the following roll call vote:

Ms. Johnson – Aye
Dr. Murtadha – Aye
Dr. Palacio – Aye

Dr. Riolo – Aye
Dr. White – Aye
Mr. Biederman, President – Aye

COMMITTEE REPORTS

6. Finance Committee (Dr. Eugene G. White, Chair; Ms. Elizabeth N. Johnson, Dr. Khaula Murtadha)

a. President Biederman will Convene a Public Hearing

Dr. White moved to suspend the Regular Meeting and convene a Public Hearing. Dr. Riolo seconded the motion. President Biederman suspended the Regular Meeting and convened a Public Hearing on the following roll call vote:

Ms. Johnson – Aye	Dr. Riolo – Aye
Dr. Murtadha – Aye	Dr. White – Aye
Dr. Palacio – Aye	Mr. Biederman, President – Aye

President Biederman announced that this Public Hearing was being held to consider the 2026-2027 Irvington Branch Renovation and Multi-Facility Long-Term Capital Improvement and Equipment Update Project.

1) To consider the 2026-2027 Irvington Branch Renovation and Multi-Facility Long-Term Capital Improvement and Equipment Update Project

Mr. Jeff Qualkinbush, Bond Counsel from Barnes and Thornburg, explained that this is the second public hearing on this project and financing. The project tonight is for primarily the Irvington Branch and the remodeling and reconstruction of that building but also to do some other improvements across the district.

The first one is the Preliminary Determination/Reimbursement Resolution. In addition, the second resolution is called the Appropriation Resolution. While there is an appropriation process for the regular Budget when that is done, a separate appropriation is necessary for bonds.

At this time, Mr. Jason Tanselle, Municipal Advisor from Baker Tilly, addressed the Board. He presented and discussed a PowerPoint presentation wherein he reviewed how the Library could pay for this project through the issuance of a property tax supported bond in an amount not to exceed \$19 million. The maximums would include the borrowing amount, repayment term, interest rate, interest expense and annual payment. The Library has positioned itself to be able to issue these bonds without increasing its debt service levy or tax rate. Mr. Tanselle then reviewed the general obligation debt limit for the Library. After bond costs of issuance, it is estimated that roughly \$18,720,000 would be available for the project. The maximum repayment term is going to be six years but the Library anticipates repaying within a four-year term. He then reviewed the annual payment amount. The current debt service tax rate is 3.18 cents and we are not anticipating an increase above that or the current levy of \$20,711,000.

2) Invite Public Comment from the Audience

Mr. Biederman invited public comment at this time.

There were no public comments.

3) President Biederman Will Consider a Motion to Close the Public Hearing

Dr. Riolo made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Dr. White seconded the motion.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ms. Johnson – Aye	Dr. Riolo – Aye
Dr. Murtadha – Aye	Dr. White – Aye
Dr. Palacio – Aye	Mr. Biederman, President – Aye

The Public Hearing was closed at this time and the Regular Meeting was reconvened.

b. Resolution 26 – 2026 (Preliminary Determination/Reimbursement and Bond Resolution) (2026-2027 Irvington Branch Renovation and Multi-Facility Long-Term Capital Improvement and Equipment Update Project)

Mr. Qualkinbush noted that this resolution does three primary things. It makes a preliminary determination to approve the project and the financing pursuant to the parameters that have been set and it authorizes the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer to take any and all actions necessary to present this to the City-County Council for approval. And, it authorizes the Library to incur expenses for the project prior to the issuance of the bonds and to reimburse those expenses with bond proceeds once the bonds are issued.

After full discussion and careful consideration of Resolution 26 – 2026, it was noted this resolution received a favorable recommendation from the Finance Committee. Dr. Riolo seconded the recommendation. The resolution was approved on the following roll call vote:

Ms. Johnson – Aye	Dr. Riolo – Aye
Dr. Murtadha – Aye	Dr. White – Aye
Dr. Palacio – Aye	Mr. Biederman, President – Aye

The resolution is appended to, and made a part of, these minutes.

c. Resolution 27– 2026 (Appropriation Resolution) (2026-2027 Irvington Branch Renovation and Multi-Facility Long-Term Capital Improvement and Equipment Update Project)

Mr. Qualkinbush shared that this resolution is required anytime you're going to do a bond issue. The Board will now approve the appropriation of the expenditure of those proceeds and the interest earnings on those proceeds. While the bond issue was approved at \$19 million it is hoped that some interest will be earned on those proceeds while the project is going forward. So that is why we authorize the appropriation to be a larger amount of \$20,605,000.

After full discussion and careful consideration of Resolution 27 – 2026, it was noted this resolution received a favorable recommendation from the Finance Committee. Dr. Riolo seconded the recommendation. The resolution was approved on the following roll call vote:

Ms. Johnson – Aye
 Dr. Murtadha – Aye
 Dr. Palacio – Aye

Dr. Riolo – Aye
 Dr. White – Aye
 Mr. Biederman, President – Aye

The resolution is appended to, and made a part of, these minutes.

d. Audit Review from Crowe

Ms. Campbell introduced Mr. Scott Nickerson, a Partner at Crowe, LLP, who reviewed the Library's 2025 Audit. He advised that there was nothing out of the ordinary with the Audit. There were no material adjustments. He commented that the Comprehensive Financial Report is consistent with financial statements. The total government fund for 2025 was \$94.9 million.

e. Report of the Treasurer

Ms. Lolita Campbell, CFO, and Ms. Mary Rankin, Accounting Director and Treasurer, shared the Report of the Treasurer for June 2026. As of June 30, 2026, the year-to-date revenue was approximately \$30.7 million and the year-to-date expenditures were approximately \$27.2 million.

The Report of the Treasurer was approved for filing for audit on the motion of Dr. White, seconded by Dr. Murtadha, and the following roll call vote:

Ms. Johnson – Aye
 Dr. Murtadha – Aye
 Dr. Palacio – Aye

Dr. Riolo – Aye
 Dr. White – Aye
 Mr. Biederman, President – Aye

f. Resolution 28 – 2026 (Marion County Internet Library Grant Acceptance and Database Renewal)

Ms. Deb Lambert, Chief Collections Management Officer, explained that the Marion County Internet Library ("MCIL") provides equitable access to high-quality academic resources for students across Marion County. The program advances the Library's Strategic Plan by connecting educators with resources and training that strengthens classroom integration and student engagement.

It was determined that the Chief Executive Officer should execute a renewal contract in the amount of \$486,233 which will be funded from the Indianapolis Foundation Library Fund grant.

After full discussion and careful consideration of Resolution 28 – 2026, it was noted this resolution received a favorable recommendation from the Finance Committee. Dr. Murtadha seconded the recommendation. The resolution was approved on the following roll call vote:

Ms. Johnson – Aye
 Dr. Murtadha – Aye
 Dr. Palacio – Aye

Dr. Riolo – Aye
 Dr. White – Aye
 Mr. Biederman, President – Aye

The resolution is appended to, and made a part of, these minutes.

g. Resolution 29 – 2026 (2026 – 2027 General Liability Insurance Renewal)

Ms. Campbell reviewed the proposed coverages for the necessary general liability insurance as proposed by the Library's insurance broker, Gallagher. The total amount for 2026/2027 coverage, including the broker's fee, is \$549,695. This is a 12.14% increase from last year. The expense will be paid from Operating Fund 101.

After full discussion and careful consideration of Resolution 29 – 2026, it was noted this resolution received a favorable recommendation from the Finance Committee. Dr. Murtadha seconded the recommendation. The resolution was approved on the following roll call vote:

Ms. Johnson – Aye
Dr. Murtadha – Aye
Dr. Palacio – Aye

Dr. Riolo – Aye
Dr. White – Aye
Mr. Biederman, President – Aye

The resolution is appended to, and made a part of, these minutes.

Dr. White requested that the Library seek other vendors to bid on the insurance coverage for 2027/2028. We want more competition in the bidding process.

Lastly, Ms. Campbell mentioned that the 2027 Budget will be presented at a Special Meeting with a Public Hearing on August 11, 2026.

7. Diversity, Policy and Human Resources Committee (Dr. Luis A. Palacio, Chair; Dr. Eugene G. White, Ms. Natissa S. Woodard)

Dr. Palacio advised that the Committee did not have any items to report.

8. Facilities Committee (Dr. Lisa Riolo, Chair; Ms. Elizabeth N. Johnson, Ms. Natissa Woodard)

Dr. Riolo advised that the Facilities Committee did not have any items to report.

9. Library Foundation Update

Dr. Riolo provided the Foundation Update as follows:

News

Circulate: Night at the Library is on Saturday, August 15, 2026 at Central Library. If you have already bought tickets, thank you. If you have not, you can do so at: Circulate – Indy Public Library Foundation.

Donors

Major Donors last month: Bedel Financial Consulting, Inc.; Downtown Optimist

Foundation; Indiana Humanities; Indianapolis Indians; Nicholas H. Noyes, Jr. Memorial Foundation, Inc.; The Brave Heart Foundation; and the OFFICE performing arts + film.

Program Support

This month the Foundation provided \$300,000 to the Library for: Summer Reading Program, Public Library Association Conference for Library Staff, CBLC Black Health Fair, Digital Creativity Workstations, Library Card Campaign, Teen Packaged Programs, Intro to Gardening and Pathway to Literacy.

10. Report of the CEO

Mr. Gregory Hill, CEO of the Indianapolis Public Library, gave his Report as follows:

a. Confirming Resolutions

1) Resolution Regarding Finances, Personnel and Travel 30 – 2026)

After full discussion and careful consideration of Resolution 30 – 2026, the resolution was approved on the motion of Dr. White, seconded by Dr. Riolo, and the following roll call vote:

Ms. Johnson – Aye	Dr. Riolo – Aye
Dr. Murtadha – Nay	Dr. White – Aye
Dr. Palacio – Aye	Mr. Biederman, President – Aye

The resolution is appended to, and made a part of, these minutes.

b. Report of the CEO – July 2026

Mr. Hill discussed his Report which included information on programs, services and initiatives from the month of June, as follows:

- On a typical day in the month of June, the Library signed up 113 new cardholders and welcomed 8,108 visitors.
- The Patron Experience Surveys administered after programs indicate that 98% of patrons had positive experiences and 99% say staff communication was respectful and inviting.
- The next Heart of Every Neighborhood Event, which raises awareness of the Library's role in our communities, is scheduled at the Haughville Branch on August 17, 2026 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

c. Quarterly Statistical Report on Library Operations – Quarter 2 – 2026

Ms. Marianne McKenzie, Chief Strategy and Analytics Officer, shared the following information:

- It was noted that June typically has less cardholder activity because the academic school year has ended.
- As of this date, we have 170,378 active cardholders which is a 2.1% increase over June 2025.

- The Library is preparing to implement a new online verification system which will make it easier for patrons to keep their library cards active, removing the need to come into a branch for renewal every three years.
- The Library conducted 2,454 programs for Quarter 2 2026, a 2% increase over Q2 2025.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11. None.

NEW BUSINESS

12. None.

DISCUSSION AND AGENDA BUILDING

13. **Future Agenda Items** – This time is made available for discussion of items not on the Agenda which are of interest to the Library Board members and the opportunity to suggest items to be included on future Library Board Meeting Agendas.

Dr. White requested information on the following items:

- Report on the status of repairs to the front steps of the building at East Washington which are in a grave state of disrepair; and
- Cause and remedy to address the deluge of water which flooded into the building during tonight's meeting.

14. **Notice of Special Meetings**

None.

15. **Notice of Next Regular Meeting**

Monday, August 24, 2026, at the Lawrence Branch Library, 7898 Hague Road, at 6:30 p.m.

16. **Adjournment**

The Secretary announced that there was no further business to come before the Board.

The Chairman then declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

INFORMATION

17. Materials

- a. **Notes of July 14, 2026 Finance Committee Meeting.**

18. Board Meeting Schedule for 2026 (Notice of Date and Place of Meeting) and Upcoming Events

- a. **Board Meeting Schedule** for 2026 will be updated as necessary.
- b. **Library Programs/Free Upcoming Events** may be found at [attend.indypl.org](https://www.indypl.org/attend).

The July 27, 2026 Indianapolis Public Library Board Meeting is available to view at:

<https://www.indypl.org/about-the-library/board-meeting-times-committees>



Dr. Lisa Riolo, Secretary to the Board