

WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES
Monday, April 27, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair EJ Greenspan called the Library Board to order at 6:29 p.m. Present were Board members, Eileen Daly and Bret Boudreaux, Library Director Laura Irmscher, and Heidi Reagan, recorder. Members Kim Cohen and Gail Crockett were absent. Also present were Library staff members Andrew Piro, Katie Kottas, and Leah Farrell.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT - none

3. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA (Items 3a, 3b, and 3c).

- a. Minutes of the March 23, 2026, meeting.
- b. March Library Administrative Report.
- c. Budget Report.

MOTION: On a motion made by Bret Boudreaux and seconded by Eileen Daly, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT - none

5. BUSINESS ITEMS:

- a. FY27 Budget Update
 - i. The budget was approved by the Town as submitted.
 - ii. No additional Sunday hours were approved.
 - 1. We will be actively looking for other ways to fund Sundays which we expect to cost \$140,000.
- b. Spring Staff Day
 - i. Thursday, May 28, 2026

MOTION: On a motion made by Eileen Daly and seconded by Bret Boudreaux the Board unanimously approved closing the Library on May, 28, 2026 for Spring Staff Day.

- c. Staff Spotlight: Public Library Association (PLA) Conference Reports
 - i. Andrew Piro – Adult Services/Reference
 - 1. Focused on sessions covering Leadership, Emerging Technology/AI, and Day to Day Operations.
 - ii. Katie Kottas – Circulation
 - 1. Focused on sessions covering Community Building
 - iii. Leah Farrell – Programs, Publicity, Studio 20.
 - 1. Focused on sessions covering Equity, Inclusion, Diversity, Outreach, and Investing in the Library as a Third Space.

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Laura Irmscher

- a. Although our last Sunday was scheduled to be May 3, we will be closing the Library that day for much needed HVAC repairs.

- b. Passport to Libraries Program
 - i. Statewide program running during the month of April.
 - ii. Passports are stamped at participating Libraries.
 - iii. Raffle prizes are available for participants visiting five Libraries, 25 Libraries, and the most Libraries
- c. Migration Update
 - i. A Public Information page is now available on our website.
 - ii. All due dates for hard-copy materials are now extended to June 8
- d. Craft and Hobby Supply Swap Shop
 - i. Item drop-off on May 1, Shop for supplies on May 2
- e. Faxon Fun Grant
 - i. \$5000 has been received from the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation
 - ii. Registration is May 13, 2026 for both sessions of Faxon Fun.
- f. America250 Program
 - i. Transitions: What We Gained, What It Cost.
 - ii. Program covers how zoning laws, industrialization, and immigration shaped West Hartford.
 - iii. What we can learn from the past as we move into the future.
 - iv. Online program Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 7 p.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: The Library Board Meeting was unanimously adjourned 7:14 p.m. The next scheduled Board Meeting is Monday, May 18, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Daly
Board Secretary