MINUTES
Board of Library Trustees
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 7, 2026
6:30 pm
West Branch - 1125 University Avenue, Berkeley CA 94702

Commission Members:
Beverly Greene, President; Tanir Ami, Vice President; Shoshana O'Keefe, and Amy Roth

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A copy of the agenda packet can be found at http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/about/board-library-trustees

A. Call to order: 6:34 PM

Present: Trustees Ami, Greene, O'Keefe and Roth

Absent: None.

Also Present: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor, Director of Library Services; Henry Bankhead, Deputy Director, Aimee Reeder, Communications Manager; Alicia Abramson, Information Technology Manager, Nneka Gallaread, Fiscal & Administrative Manager; Jacqui Rodriguez, Administrative Secretary

B. Ceremonial Matters: None.

C. Public Comments: 0 speakers

D. Comments from Library Unions:

1. SEIU, LOCAL 1021 (Community Services and PTRLA Units) – 0 speakers
2. SEIU, LOCAL 1021 (Maintenance and Clerical Units) – 0 speakers
3. Public Employees Union, LOCAL 1 – 0 speakers

E. Comments from Board of Library Trustees:

1. Trustee Ami is excited to honor and be a part of Banned Books Week as a member of the Board of Library Trustees during this week of the year.

2. President Greene shared her appreciation for Trustee Amy Roth on behalf of the entire Board of Library Trustees, who has served as a member of the Board for two terms (plus). This year was particularly significant because of the need to find a new library director. President Greene personally requested that Trustee Roth remain on the board to provide institutional memory during this important task. It was crucial to balance the recruitment of new trustees with the search for a new director. Trustee Roth's board history and insight are invaluable, and previously as board president, her advice was greatly appreciated, in addition to her willingness to serve on the trustee recruitment subcommittee. President Greene presented an orchid and a card to Trustee Roth.

3. Trustee Roth expresses that it has been a privilege and an honor to work with everyone in "moving the elephant forward" and ensuring that the library continues to provide excellent service and care for the community. Trustee Roth shares a short childhood story of being a latchkey kid before the term was coined, and her refuge was the library, the Noah Webster Branch of the West Hartford Public Library. It was a safe and wonderful place for her; that is where her love for libraries began, and libraries have been a big part of her life. She appreciates that libraries are accessible to all. It's been her pleasure to serve.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

Action: M/S/C (Trustee Ami/ Trustee Roth) to adopt Resolution No. 26-045 to approve the consent calendar as presented.

A. Approval of the September 2, 2026, BOLT Regular Meeting Minutes

From: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor, Director of Library Services
Recommendation: Adopt a resolution approving the September 2, 2026, Regular BOLT meeting minutes as presented.
Contact: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor, Director of Library Services
Action: Adopted Resolution No. 26-046 to approve the minutes of September 2, 2026, as submitted.
Vote: Ayes: Trustee Ami, Greene and Roth. Noes: None. Abstentions: Trustee O'Keefe. Absence: None.

B. Approval to Close All Berkeley Public Library Locations on December 10, 2026, to host an Annual Staff Development Day

From: Dia Penning, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Manager, Library
Recommendation: Adopt a resolution authorizing the closure of all Berkeley Public Library locations on Thursday, December 10, 2026, to allow all Library employees to participate in the Library's Annual Staff Development Day.
Contact: Dia Penning, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Manager, Library
Action: Adopted Resolution No. 26-047.
Vote: Ayes: Trustee Ami, Greene, O'Keefe and Roth. Noes: None. Abstentions: None. Absence: None.

C. Authorization to Open the Central Library and all Branches One Hour Late to Allow Adequate Time for All-Staff Meetings in 2027

From: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor- Director of Library Services
Recommendation: Adopt a resolution to open the Central Library and all Branch Libraries one hour later for January 29, April 30, July 30, and October 29, 2027, to allow adequate time for the all-staff meeting.
Contact: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor, Director of Library Services
Action: Adopted Resolution No. 26-048.
Vote: Ayes: Trustee Ami, Greene, O'Keefe and Roth. Noes: None. Abstentions: None. Absence: None.

D. 2027 Authors Dinner Event

From: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor- Director of Library Services**,** Director of Library Services
Recommendation: Adopt a resolution approving the arrangements in preparation for the 24th annual Authors Dinner to be held on Sunday, February 7, 2027, at the Central Library.
Contact: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor, Director of Library Services
Action: Adopted Resolution No. 26-049.
Vote: Ayes: Trustee Ami, Greene, O'Keefe and Roth. Noes: None. Abstentions: None. Absence: None.

E. FY 2026 Annual Gift Report to Council

From: Nneka Gallaread, Fiscal and Administrative Services Manager
Recommendation: Adopt a resolution to approve the annual reporting to the City Council of gifts received in FY 2026 as mandated by CC Resolution No. 65,444-N.S.
Contact: Nneka Gallaread, Fiscal and Administrative Services Manager
Action: Adopted Resolution No. 26-050.

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Vote: Ayes: Trustee Ami, Greene, O'Keefe and Roth. Noes: None. Abstentions: None. Absence: None.

F. Contract Amendment: Contract No. 32200222 with Konica Minolta Business Solutions U.S.A.
From: Alicia Abramson, Information Technology Manager
Recommendation: Adopt a resolution authorizing the Director of Library Services to amend Contract No. 32200222 with Konica Minolta Business Solutions USA, Inc. by adding an incremental not-to-exceed amount of $70,712, increasing the total contracted not-to-exceed amount to $206,306 for the continuing provision of public use copiers and printers at all Library locations and extending the term date to end on October 31, 2028.
Contact: Alicia Abramson, Information Technology Manager
Action: Adopted Resolution No. 26-051.
Vote: Ayes: Trustee Ami, Greene, O'Keefe and Roth. Noes: None. Abstentions: None. Absence: None.

III. ACTION CALENDAR

Passing of the Gavel – President's Report

President Greene wished to celebrate and highlight important accomplishments, achievements, and progress in the last two years, crediting success to the Board of Library Trustees, staff (current, past, and interim), and community collaboration. Notable accomplishments include the recruitment and hiring of new library director Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor, bringing on interim library director Henry Bankhead, presenting an annual report to the Berkeley City Council, and the library being presented with a proclamation from the mayor of Berkeley to celebrate the occasion during National Library Week; members of the board attended the "Serving with a Purpose" conference in Southern California. The recruitment of trustees includes the addition of Councilmember and Trustee O'Keefe, Trustee Villanueva (who resigned due to moving out of Berkeley), Trustee Roth's extended service, and the two new trustees who are being voted on tonight. President Greene acknowledged the valuable partnership with Vice President Trustee Ami, emphasizing collaborative efforts in both open and closed meetings, as well as the library's needs, which were advocated for despite the city's financial challenges. President Green recognized a stable budget supported by the Berkeley community while acknowledging ongoing challenges and uncertainties outside the library. President Greene reflected on the complexities of managing a $33 million organization with over 100 employees due to various factors and the importance of continuing to shepherd and steward the library and exclaimed that she was delighted to pass on the gavel and, with that, moved into the action calendar and into the election of the president.

A. Election of the President
From: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor, Director of Library Services
Recommendation: Members of the Board of Library Trustees will elect a Trustee to sit as President, for the term commencing at the conclusion of the October 7, 2026, regular Board of Library Trustees meeting, for a one-year term. Vice President Tanir Ami accepted the nomination for President at the September 2, 2026, regular meeting.
Contact: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor, Director of Library Services
Action: M/S/C (Trustee O'Keefe/ Trustee Roth) to adopt Resolution No. 26-052.
Vote: Ayes: Trustee O'Keefe, Roth, Greene and Ami. Noes: None. Abstentions: None. Absence: None.

B. Election of the Vice President
From: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor, Director of Library Services
Recommendation: Members of the Board of Library Trustees will elect a Trustee to sit as Vice President, for the term commencing at the conclusion of the October 7, 2026, regular Board of Library Trustees meeting, for a one-year term.
Contact: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor, Director of Library Services
Action: Vice President Trustee Ami nominates Trustee O'Keefe to serve as Vice President through the time of the next election in October 2027. Trustee O'Keefe accepts the nomination to serve as Vice President and exclaims that she is happy to do whatever is needed. **Resolution No. 26-053 is adopted.**
Vote: Ayes: Trustee Ami, Greene and O'Keefe. Noes: None. Abstentions: Trustee Roth. Absence: None.

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C. Appointment to Fill Trustee Vacancy 1

From: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor, Director of Library Services
Recommendation: Recommendation to the City Council regarding the appointment of two trustees to serve a four-year term. The initial seat to be filled will be to replace the vacancy that resulted from Trustee Villanueva's resignation on December 04, 2026.
Contact: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor, Director of Library Services
Action: Trustee Roth nominates Hong-Sze Yu; Trustee Greene seconds the nomination.
Vote: Ayes: Trustee O'Keefe, Roth, Greene and Ami. Noes: None. Abstentions: None. Absence: None.
Resolution No. 26-054 is adopted to recommend the preferred candidate Hong-Sze Yu to the City Council of the City of Berkeley to be appointed to the Board of Library Trustees beginning November 4, 2026.

A. Appointment to Fill Trustee Vacancy 2

From: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor, Director of Library Services
Recommendation: Recommendation to City Council on the appointment of two Trustees to serve a four-year term. The second seat to be filled will replace the vacancy created by the conclusion of Trustee Roth's term, which expired on January 3, 2026.
Contact: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor, Director of Library Services
Action: Trustee Roth nominates Charles "Court" Jackson; Trustee Greene seconds the nomination.
Vote: Ayes: Trustee O'Keefe, Roth, Greene and Ami. Noes: None. Abstentions: None. Absence: None.
Resolution No. 26-055 is adopted to recommend the preferred candidate Charles "Court" Jackson to the City Council of the City of Berkeley to be appointed to the Board of Library Trustees beginning November 4, 2026.

IV. INFORMATION REPORTS

A. FYTD26 – 4th Quarter YTD Budget Report – Nneka Gallaread, Administrative and Fiscal Services Manager
Action: Received.

B. Monthly Library Director's Report - Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor, Director of Library Services
Action: Received.

V. AGENDA BUILDING

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at 6:30 PM. Future meeting topics identified include discussion of governance of the board, including the number of trustees on the Board of Library Trustees.

VI. OUT OF ORDER PUBLIC COMMENT

President Greene allowed a Berkeley Public Library employee to make a public comment. President Greene intervened to advise the staff member to speak with the library director about this perceived personnel issue while also reminding the staff member that all public comments must be made at the beginning of all board meetings. The BPL staff member proceeded to distribute written communications to the entire board and all staff and public members in attendance at this meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Action: M/S/C (Trustee Roth/Trustee O'Keefe) to adjourn the meeting.
Vote: Ayes: Trustee Ami, Greene, O'Keefe and Roth. Noes: None. Abstentions: None. Absence: None.

Adjourned at 7:39 PM.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of Wednesday, October 7, 2026 as approved by the Board of Library Trustees.

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Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor, Director of Library Services, acting as secretary to BOLT

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Attachments:

1. None.

Communications received and distributed to the entire Board of Library Trustees and members of the public during the regular BOLT Meeting on October 7, 2026:

Name	Subject
DeMareon Gipson	A Timeline of Harassment, Mismanagement, Collusion & Retaliation in the Berkeley Public Library

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