

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 20, 2026

6:00p.m. 2nd Floor Conference Room

1. REGULAR MEETING – CALL TO ORDER

President McCauley called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

2. ROLL CALL

Trustees Present: Birner, Caudill, Gira, Steker, Sucec, Suykerbuyk, McCauley

A quorum is present.

Staff Attendance: Executive Director E. Christianson, Deputy Director N. Ziarnik, Business Manager K. Bondi, Children's Department Head Katie Less

Public Attendance: Adam Hoover - NIMEC, S. Harrod

3. PUBLIC COMMENT (Policy No: 1.10)

In accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the Ela Area Public Library Board of Trustees provides an opportunity for public comment at all board meetings. Please sign in by 6:00 p.m.

4. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

5. NEW BUSINESS I

A. Community Solar/NIMEC

Adam Hoover presented an overview of the Community Solar program. He will return with a contract recommendation in the coming months.

B. Resolution Community Solar (Document + Action) - tabled

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting November 18, 2025 (Document)

B. Approval to close the library for Staff Discover Day on Friday, April 24, 2026

Trustee Caudill moved:

“To approve the Consent Agenda.”

Trustee Gira seconded the motion and it passed on a unanimous voice vote of all trustees present.

AYES (7): Birner, Caudill, Gira, Steker, Sucec, Suykerbuyk, McCauley

NAYS (0):

ABSTAIN (0):

7. APPROVAL OF ITEMS MOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

- A. November 2025 (Document)
- B. December 2025 (Document)

Trustee Birner moved:

“To approve the November and December 2025 expenditures as authorized with the balance of the reports to be filed for audit.”

Trustee Caudill seconded the motion and it passed on a unanimous roll call vote of all trustees present.

AYES (7): Birner, Caudill, Gira, Steker, Sucec, Suykerbuyk, McCauley

NAYS (0):

ABSTAIN (0):

9. TRUSTEE REPORTS/COMMENTS

Trustee Caudill discussed the IL Senate Resolution regarding Trustee training.
Trustee Steker commented on feedback she received regarding the Forge.

10. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. November and December 2025 Librarians' Report
- B. FY2026 Construction Update
- C. Action Plan FY25/26

12. SPECIAL COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Executive Director Review (EDR) Liaison (President McCauley)
 - i) EDR Meeting scheduled for April 14, 2026, at 6:00pm.
- B. Personnel Liaison (Vice-President Caudill)
- C. Finance Liaison (Treasurer Suykerbuyk)
 - i) Finance Committee Meeting scheduled for May 5, 2026, at 6:00pm
- D. Building & Grounds Liaison (Trustee Steker)
- E. Bylaws & Policy Liaison (Trustee Sucec)
- F. RAILS Liaison (Trustee Gira)
- G. Foundation Liaison (Trustee Caudill)

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Board Self-Evaluation Discussion

14. NEW BUSINESS II

- A. Approval of Per Capita Grant Application (Document + Action)

Trustee Caudill moved:

“To approve the Ela Area Public Library District FY26 Illinois Public Library Per Capita Grant Application.”

Trustee Sucec seconded the motion and it passed on a unanimous roll call vote of all trustees present.

AYES (7): Birner, Caudill, Gira, Steker, Sucec, Suykerbuyk, McCauley

NAYS (0):

ABSTAIN (0):

B. Approval of the Circulation Policy Review (Document + Action)

Trustee Suykerbuyk moved:

“To approve the Circulation Policy with a reviewed and revised date of 1/2026.”

Trustee Sucec seconded the motion and it passed on a unanimous roll call vote of all trustees present.

AYES (7): Birner, Caudill, Gira, Steker, Sucec, Suykerbuyk, McCauley

NAYS (0):

ABSTAIN (0):

C. Rescheduling of the March 2026 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (Document + Action)

Trustee Birner moved:

“To approve rescheduling the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees from March 17 to March 18, 2026.”

Trustee Gira seconded the motion and it passed on a unanimous roll call vote of all trustees present.

AYES (7): Birner, Caudill, Gira, Steker, Sucec, Suykerbuyk, McCauley

NAYS (0):

ABSTAIN (0):

D. Building and Grounds Critical Issues – Approval of Backup Generator Proposal (Document + Action). Tabled until Thursday, January 29, 2026.

E. Approval of Trustee Expense Reports (Action) none

F. Department in Focus: Children’s Department Tour - postponed

15. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL MATTERS BY 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) - none

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF PENDING, PROBABLE, OR IMMINENT LITIGATION AS ALLOWED BY 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) - none

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES AS ALLOWED BY 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) – none

16. ROLL CALL (If returning from Executive Session)

17. ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment at 8:47pm

Trustee Caudill moved:

“To adjourn.”

Trustee Suykerbuyk seconded the motion and it passed on a unanimous voice vote of all trustees present.

AYES (7): Birner, Caudill, Gira, Steker, Sucec, Suykerbuyk, McCauley

NAYS (0):

ABSTAIN (0):

Betty Birner, Secretary
Approved at the next Regular Meeting of February 17, 2026

Cathy McCauley, President