



PALOS HEIGHTS
PUBLIC LIBRARY

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Palos Heights Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting
September 17, 2026

Library News

Budget Update

Tax bills went out as expected on September 1st with a due date of October 1st. This is welcome news! Depending on how quickly people start making those payments, we can expect to see distributions starting up any day now. We currently have enough funds on hand to get us to the end of October, so there shouldn't be an issue in terms of hitting zero balance before significant distributions resume. On the off chance that this doesn't turn out to be the case, I plan to approach the City about moving forward with a tax anticipation loan.

The coalition of school and library administrators continues to meet with representatives from the County President's Office on a weekly basis. While there is still significant frustration about the lack of reporting on any funds issued in the past year, at least bills are out and money is set to flow again. The President's Office continues to pressure other involved parties to get the system fixed. While there is still some way to go, progress continues.

Building Envelope Project

The building envelope project is now formally complete. Kersey has submitted all documentation to close out the project. In the storms that we've had in the past few months, there has been no sign of water intrusion. While I wish we had been able to use that money on some other projects, it's good to know that this problem appears to be solved. Now, and with our 2027 budget, I hope that we can begin rebuilding our reserve fund in earnest.

DAR Tree Dedication

Everything is in place for the formal dedication ceremony on Saturday for the tree that the Swallow Cliff Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has donated to the library. The tree was planted last week and looks fantastic! The dedication plaque also looks quite sharp, and I think this will be a nice addition to our landscape for many years to come.

I hope that you will all join us on Saturday at 11:30 am for the dedication! There will be a brief ceremony followed by some light refreshments.

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, September 17th – Regular Board Meeting, 6:30 pm
- Saturday, September 19th – DAR Tree Dedication, 11:30 am
- Saturday, September 26th – Fan Con, all day
- Thursday, October 15th – Building & Grounds Committee Meeting, 5:30 pm
- Thursday, October 15th – Regular Board Meeting, 6:30 pm

Agenda Items

Item 1: Kersey Construction Pay Application 4

Kersey has fulfilled their final obligations in terms of providing us with lien waivers and warranty information, so we are ready to make the final payment and close out this project.

Recommendation: I recommend that you approve final payment to D. Kersey Construction in the amount of \$14,108.50.

Item 2: FY2027 Budget

Please see the separate Budget Narrative document along with the FY2027 Budget document in this month's packet for a detailed discussion of the proposed budget.

Recommendation: I recommend that you approve the FY2027 Budget as proposed.

Item 3: FY2026 Levy

The levy for fiscal year 2026 will be collected and distributed to the Library in 2027. As such, we have built the FY2026 levy to account for the funds needed for the Library's budgeted operations in 2027. The amounts in the levy document match up with those in the revenue section of the proposed FY2027 Budget. This levy incorporates a 3.40% increase to the Library's Corporate levy and an increase to the total levy of 3.42%. This is a responsible levy that matches the current rate of inflation without unnecessarily attempting to blindly maximize the levy amount to the statutorily allowed level.

Recommendation: I recommend that you approve Resolution 260917-1 authorizing the Library's FY2026 levy.

Item 4: Officer Election

The Board's Nominating Committee chair has put together a slate of officers for the upcoming 2026-2027 term. All current officers have agreed to accept nominations for their positions for another year, so the proposed slate is as follows:

President – Rose Zubik (2nd consecutive term)

Vice President – Patrick Keough (2nd consecutive term)

Secretary – Hilary Rhodes (3rd consecutive term)

Treasurer – John Peltz (3rd consecutive term)

Recommendation: I recommend that you approve the slate of officers as presented.

Item 5: PAC Artwork

The Palos Heights Public Arts Commission has given us a framed picture titled "Windows of Palos Heights" and asked us to hang it in the library. It's nicely done and portrays nine different locations around Palos Heights (including the library). Per our Gifts and Donations Policy, I or the Board can accept or decline such in-kind gifts. When it comes to artwork to be displayed in the library, I like to get Board feedback when practical. So I'm bringing this to you for approval. If you believe this is suitable for display, we will discuss where it should go. If you don't think this is suitable, it will be returned to the Public Arts Commission.



In my opinion, this is a good-looking piece of art that captures a snapshot of a few prominent locations in town. I believe this would be a suitable addition to our local history collection, and it could easily be put on display in our Local History Room.

Recommendation: I recommend that you approve the slate of officers as presented.

Respectfully submitted,
Jesse Blazek
Library Director