

Bellwood Public Library

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Special Board Meeting Minutes January 26, 2026

Ms. Riales, President, called the Bellwood Public Library Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Ms. Felicia Chase
Ms. Mary Clements
Ms. Patricia Crawford
Ms. Elizabeth Ramirez
Ms. Constance Riales
Mrs. Dorothy Smith
Mr. Reginald Stewart

Absent: None

Also in attendance: Director Heather Montilla and Administrative Assistant Lili Savage, and Library Attorney Dee Jarad (via phone). There were two community members present.

Public Comment: None

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mrs. Smith to move agenda item 7c Presentation by Studio GC regarding New ADA Compliant Exterior Ramp regarding options of new ADA compliant exterior to after Committee Reports.

All voted by voice, Aye to move agenda item 7c to 5e. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Ms. Clements, seconded by Ms. Crawford to approve the meeting minutes for December 9, 2025.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 7: Ms. Chase, Ms. Clements, Ms. Crawford, Ms. Ramirez, Ms. Riales, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Stewart

NAYS: 0:

ABSTAIN: 0:

ABSENT: 0:

The motion passed.

Finance Committee Report:

Ms. Clements gave the finance report which included: Reports of Bills:#865, 865-A, & 865-B. The following reports of bills were submitted, copies of which are included as part of these minutes:

#865 (Bill List) in the amount of	\$ 97,621.61
#865-A (Payroll) in the amount of	\$ 75,567.73
#865-B (Checking) in the amount of	\$ 0.00
TOTAL:	\$ 173,189.34

A motion was made by Ms. Clements, seconded by Mr. Stewart for approval of Bill-Reports #865, 865-A, & 865-B. The Treasurer's Report will be files for audit.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 7: Ms. Chase, Ms. Clements, Ms. Crawford, Ms. Ramirez, Ms. Riales, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Stewart

NAYS: 0:

ABSTAIN: 0:

ABSENT: 0:

The motion passed.

Other Committee Reports:

- a. Administration Committee (Chairman: Secretary Crawford)
 - i. No report .
- b. Building and Grounds Committee (Chairman: Trustee Chase)
 - i. Presentation to be given by Mr. Schretter of Studio GC tonight
- c. Finance Committee (Chairman: Treasurer Clements)
 - i. No report
- d. Planning and Development Committee (Chairman: Trustee Stewart)
 - i. No report.
- e. Public Relations and Legislation Committee (Chairman: Trustee Smith)
 - i. No report.

Library Attorney Dee Jarad arrived at 6:47 p.m.

New Business Presentation by Mr. Schretter of Studio GC regarding New ADA Compliant Exterior Ramp regarding options of new ADA Compliant Exterior Ramp. Three options were presented. Trustees asked Mr. Schretter questions.

A motion was made by Ms. Crawford, seconded by Ms. Clements that the board convene into Closed Session at 7:25 p.m. for:

Pursuant to Section 2(c)(21) for discussion of minutes lawfully closed under the Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06 of the Act.

AYES: 7: Ms. Chase, Ms. Clements, Ms. Crawford, Ms. Ramirez, Ms. Riales, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Stewart

NAYS: 0:

ABSTAIN:0:

ABSENT: 0:

The motion passed.

A motion was made by Ms. Clements, seconded by Mr. Stewart to reconvene to the regular session at 7:45 p.m.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 7: Ms. Chase, Ms. Clements, Ms. Crawford, Ms. Ramirez, Ms. Riales, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Stewart

NAYS: 0:

ABSTAIN:0:

ABSENT:0:

The motion passed.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

A motion was made by Ms. Clements, seconded by Ms. Ramirez for approval of board travel expenses relative to 2025 ALA conference and 2025 ILA conference for Mrs. Smith.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 7: Ms. Chase, Ms. Clements, Ms. Crawford, Ms. Ramirez, Ms. Riales, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Stewart

NAYS: 0:

ABSTAIN: 0:

ABSENT: 0:

The motion passed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Ms. Clements for approval of the Board's closed session minutes from June 2024 to August 2025 and that there is a determination for the need of confidentiality as to these minutes.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 7: Ms. Chase, Ms. Clements, Ms. Crawford, Ms. Ramirez, Ms. Riales, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Stewart

NAYS: 0:

ABSTAIN: 0:

ABSENT: 0:

The motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Ms. Crawford for approval of Option #1 for a new ADA compliant exterior ramp.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 6: Ms. Chase, Ms. Crawford, Ms. Ramirez, Ms. Riales, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Stewart

NAYS: 0:

ABSTAIN: 1: Ms. Clements

ABSENT: 0:

The motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Ms. Ramirez for approval of AIA Agreement between BPL and Studio GC, Inc. relative to New ADA Compliant Exterior Ramp.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 7: Ms. Chase, Ms. Clements, Ms. Crawford, Ms. Ramirez, Ms. Riales, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Stewart

NAYS: 0:

ABSTAIN: 0:

ABSENT: 0:

The motion passed.

Library Director's Report: The report is posted on the Bellwood Public Library's web page.

Communication/Announcements:

1. There is a concern that at the Monthly:
 - a. Bingo participants were bringing in their own cards
 - b. They also thought it was unfair for one person to win 2 or 3 times every month.
2. A patron stated that they enjoyed coming to the library and that the library should hire another frequent patron.

Public Comments:

President Riales brought items for the homeless on Friday, January 23, 2026 and saw that the library staff had a Hot Chocolate station for the Bellwood community. Great idea!

Adjournment: Ms. Clements moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Stewart seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m. All voted by voice, Aye.

Patricia Crawford, Secretary