

Bellwood Public Library

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Board Meeting Minutes May 11, 2026

Trustee Riales, President, called the Bellwood Public Library Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present:

Trustee Mary Clements
Trustee Patricia Crawford
Trustee Elizabeth Ramirez
Trustee Constance Riales
Trustee Dororthy Smith
Trustee Reginald Stewart

Absent: None

Also in attendance: Head of Adult & Bibliographic Kara Spizzirri, Business Manager Ashley Matthews, Administrative Assistant Lili Savage, and Library Attorney Dee Jarad via phone. There were six community members present.

Public Comment: A community person read a letter regarding the recent trustee residency matter that resulted in a resignation during the April Board meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Clements seconded by Trustee Ramirez to approve the Board meeting minutes for April 13, 2026.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 5: Trustee Clements, Trustee Crawford, Trustee Ramirez, Trustee Riales, Trustee Smith

NAYS: 0:

ABSTAIN: 1: Trustee Stewart

ABSENT: 0:

The motion passed.

Library attorney Dee Jarad arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Finance Committee Report:

Trustee Clements gave the finance report which included: Reports of Bills: #869, 869-A, & 869-B. The following reports on bills were submitted, copies of which are included as part of these minutes:

#869 (Bill List) in the amount of	\$ 66,137.48
#869-A (Payroll) in the amount of	\$ 88,016.01
#869-B (Checking) in the amount of	\$ 0.00
TOTAL:	\$ 154,153.49

A motion was made by Trustee Ramirez, seconded by Trustee Clements for approval of Bill-Reports #869, 869-A, & 869-B, with the Treasurer’s report to be amended to reflect \$700,000 to account CDARS #2143 not account CDARS #3276. The Treasurer’s Report will be filed for audit with the corrections.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 6: Trustee Clements, Trustee Crawford, Trustee Ramirez, Trustee Riales, Trustee Smith, Trustee Stewart

NAYS: 0:

ABSTAIN: 0:

ABSENT: 0:

The motion passed.

Committee Reports:

- a. Administration Committee (Chairman: Secretary Trustee Crawford)
 - i. Stacks reviewed candidates and 1st round of interviews will be scheduled.
- b. Building and Grounds Committee (Committee Member: Trustee Stewart)
 - i. Jim Stock from the Village Hall stated that the revised documents and the Ramp permit should be available on May 13, 2026.
- 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.

Old Business:

Upcoming Trustee Retreat will be on Saturday, May 16, 2026, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. President Riales distributed a packet from the presenter to be read in advance and asked the Trustees to think about “Where do you see the Bellwood Library in 2030”?

New Business:

A motion was made by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Trustee Clements for approval that the Board convene into Closed Session at 6:25 p.m. for: Pursuant to Section 2 (c)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees or legal counsel.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 6: Trustee Clements, Trustee Crawford, Trustee Ramirez, Trustee Riales, Trustee Smith, Trustee Stewart

NAYS: 0:

ABSTAIN: 0:

ABSENT: 0:

The motion passed.

A motion was made by Trustee Clements, seconded by Trustee Stewart to return to Open Session at 7:13 p.m.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 6: Trustee Clements, Trustee Crawford, Trustee Ramirez, Trustee Riales, Trustee Smith, Trustee Stewart

NAYS: 0:

ABSTAIN: 0:

ABSENT: 0:

The motion passed.

A motion was made by Trustee Smith, seconded by Trustee Crawford to approve the timeline for the appointment to fill vacant trustee seat as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 6: Trustee Clements, Trustee Crawford, Trustee Ramirez, Trustee Riales, Trustee Smith, Trustee Stewart

NAYS: 0:

ABSTAIN: 0:

ABSENT: 0:

The motion passed.

A motion was made by Trustee Ramirez, seconded by Trustee Clements to approve the payment of the Spring/Summer 2026 newsletter invoice of \$5,159.69.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 5: Trustee Clements, Trustee Crawford, Trustee Ramirez, Trustee Riales, Trustee Smith

NAYS: 0:

ABSTAIN: 1: Trustee Stewart

ABSENT: 0:

The motion passed.

Communication/Announcements:

1. A letter from a patron stating how comfortable, creative and warm the reading nooks and other areas in the library. The person also attended a board meeting, and stated that the meeting was refreshing, respectful and enjoyable experience.
2. The Speakeasy night at the library was FANTASTIC!

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

Public Comments: None

Adjournment: Trustee Crawford moved to adjourn the meeting, Trustee Stewart seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m. All voted by voice, Aye.

Trustee Patricia Crawford, Secretary