



Howard Miller Public Library

Library Advisory Board Meeting

January 20, 2026

4:30 p.m.

West Activity Room - Community Center

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes for meeting on November 18, 2025 *(Motion and approval)*
- III. Director's Report
- IV. Board Comment
- V. Old Business
 - a. Endowment fund discussion *(Informational)*
 - b. Status of Strategic Plan goals for 2026 *(Informational)*
- VI. New Business
 - a. 2026 Proposed Library Closings *(Motion and approval)*
- VII. Public Comment
- VIII. Board Comment
- IX. Adjournment

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:

Tuesday February 17, 2026

4:30 p.m.

West Activity Room – Community Center

Howard Miller Library Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes for November 18, 2025

Present: Terry Allen, Amanda Hanson (staff), Mary Wilkos (Chair), Kate Kraak, Alison Reese, Lynette Lam, MaryBeth Timmer, Barb Danenberg

Meeting called to order 4:31pm.

Minutes from the September 21st meeting were approved as written.
M-Mary Wilkos, S-MaryBeth Timmer - Passed unanimously.

Director's Report:

- The month-long Story Walk® was installed at Van Zoeren Woods, featuring the book The Little Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything.
- Julie Russell led the Pumpkinfest Storytime for preschoolers to kick off the city's weekend festivities.
- Amanda Hanson represented the library at the South Olive Christian School Walk-A-Thon on October 17, where she distributed bookmarks and stickers to promote library services and the upcoming Summer Reading Program.
- Lauren Bosma joined us as our new Library Page on October 7, working an average of 6 to 9 hours per week.
- Kim DenBesten, Julie Russell, Jessica Volkers, Amanda Hanson, and Erin Barkel from the Community Center participated in the Pumpkinfest Parade with the city on October 4 to promote the library and highlight the dinosaur theme for the Summer Reading Program in 2026.

Old Business:

- A. Collection Development Discussion: Ice Skates
 - a. Because the downtown ice rink is currently inoperable, the skates are being stored in the library's basement, and the rental service is offline as the lending program has been discontinued.

New Business:

- A. 2026 Proposed Library Goals/Action Steps
 - a. Explore Community Partnership with/ Feeding America to bring meals to the library for those in need.
 - b. Complete sound-absorption installation project for the library to treat acoustic issues.
 - c. Digitize library registration cards and Library of Things waivers.
 - d. Update the shelving for Teen/Tween books.
- B. Amanda informed us that the contract with Blendon Township is set to expire on June 30th. She has been proactive over the past several months and mentioned that they will need to include this issue on the ballot for August.

Board Comment:

MaryBeth Timmer inquired about the status of the Strategic Plan. Amanda informed us that this information is available on the new website, and we will include the endowment discussion at the January meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:17pm

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: January 20th, 2025

2026 Holiday Schedule

NEW YEARS DAY 2026	Thursday, January 1, 2026
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY	Monday, January 19, 2026
MEMORIAL DAY	Monday, May 25, 2026
INDEPENDENCE DAY	Friday, July 3, 2026
LABOR DAY	Monday, September 7, 2026
THANKSGIVING	Thursday, November 26, 2026
DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING	Friday, November 27, 2026
CHRISTMAS EVE	Thursday, December 24, 2026
CHRISTMAS DAY	Friday, December 25, 2026
NEW YEARS DAY 2027	Friday, January 1, 2027

Library Adds the following Saturdays:

- May 23 (Memorial Day weekend)
- July 4 (Independence Day)
- September 5 (Labor Day weekend)
- November 28 (Thanksgiving weekend)
- December 26 (Christmas weekend)
- January 2, 2027 (New Year's weekend, for consistency with Christmas weekend)