



MINUTES

Library Board

August 20, 2025

7:00 PM

Berkey Public Library (3155 Coolidge)

Present:

Matt Church,
Library Director

Amanda Rhoda,
Chairperson

Christina Grimm

Carol Herman

Margaret McGee

Rita
VanBrandeghen

Absent:

Ross Gavin, *City Council Liaison*

I. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

II. Public comments: None

III. Minutes of the July 16, 2025 meeting were approved. Margaret moved to accept and Carole seconded. Board unanimously approved as printed.

IV. Librarian's report:

- Very busy summer for library, registrations are up for all programs, circulation is up in all metrics.
- All trees that were scheduled to come down have been removed. An approved tree list will be sent for replacement considerations. Matt will check with the Tree Board on recommendations.
- Provided "Grow Your Own Veggie" kits with journal. Kids encouraged to plant the seeds and track progress.
- Provided cooling relief in July during hot weather.
- Friends sponsored Berkely Street Art Fest; next meeting is Monday, Sept 8.
- DPW cleaned up landscaping around the library.
- Security cameras, including cabling installed.
- Received penal fine payment from the State of Michigan, the amount was generally what had been previously budgeted.
- Working to draft tutoring protocols to ensure Teen Room is fully accessible for middle/high school student groups.

V. Old business

A. Circulation

- All numbers up, Berkley circulation is up by over 1,000.
- Expect Wi-Fi hotspot demand to decrease now that summer is ending.
- Will keep board updated on funding issues.

VI. New business

A. Plan of Work due by end of year.

- Yearly summary of board accomplishments.
- Goals for 2026.

B. Trustee Manual

- Review manual for guidance on best practices.

VII. Update from City Council liaison

- Council meeting on Monday reviewed success of Dorothea Pocket Park. Currently no budget to make it a permanent closure, though it was well-received with both scheduled events and free use by the public.
- City is inviting law firms to interview for legal services.
- Approved improvements for community center bathrooms and concession stands.
- Five candidates running for three council seats with the election in November.

VIII. Adjourn

1. Moved by Rita, seconded by Carol.
2. 7:35 Adjourn.

Minutes submitted by Margaret McGee

Next meeting: September 17, 2025