



# City of Farmers Branch

## Minutes

### Library Board

The Manske Library  
13613 Webb Chapel  
Farmers Branch, TX 75234

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Thursday, May 14, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Manske Library

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<b>Presiding:</b>	Kristen Hansen
<b>Present:</b>	Kathy (Lee) Alvoid, Zechariah (Zech) Thompson, John (Paul) Giolma, Stacey Baker, Paul Y Shultz
<b>Absent:</b>	Dawn Calzada, Neil Thomas
<b>City Representative:</b>	Michael Kaufmann-Lynch (Assistant Library Director), Robert Diaz (Parks and Recreation Director), Sue Considine (LS&S)

#### A. CALL TO ORDER

Kristen Hansen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM on Thursday, May 14, 2026.

#### B. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no members of the public wishing to address the Library Board.

#### C. AGENDA ITEMS

##### C.1 Consider approval of Minutes for the April 9, 2026 meeting; and take appropriate action.

Two corrections were noted: a typographical error in a Board member's name, and clarification that the library policy item C2 had been tabled.

Kathy (Lee) Alvoid made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by John Paul Giolma. Motion carried.

##### C.2 Receive an update on Library Policies.

The Board heard from Robert Diaz, Director of Parks and Recreation:

- Policies to be reviewed at City Council Study Session on June 16, 2026.
- If policies move forward, place on agenda as consent adoption item for City Council Session on July 7, 2026.
- Current item pending for Board action will go to the August meeting on August 13, 2026.

**C.3 Receive Trustee Report**

Kathy (Lee) Alvoid provided the Trustee Report. Discussion included:

- Dallas Public Library moving to a regional model, reducing services at some branches while increasing hours at several central locations.
- Read a study that suggested that school cellphone bans increased students' use of library facilities. One middle school saw 89% increase in book circulations.
- Article presented that highlights several airport systems partnering with libraries to provide books for travelers. They use several different methods, such as book kiosks, lockers, or small libraries.
- Dallas Public Libraries are adapting to be community hubs and technology centers, teaching community members how to navigate an increasingly digital world. Also, learning to create new experiences for young patrons that go beyond story time.
- Chicago libraries are allowing children to use their school IDs to gain access to library cards and library services, lowering the barrier for underserved communities to use libraries.
- Discussion on Library of Things and what some libraries are checking out beyond books. Examples included fancy plates, power tools, and fishing gear.

**C.4 Discuss and advise on future grant opportunities.**

- Researching opportunities with StoryCorps and other potential local history initiatives
- PARD has been receiving questions about a current grant-funded project, the StoryWalk®. Signs are up, pages coming from Envision Dallas, and website is being updated to answer any questions. Programs planned for summer, the kick-off event will be in June.

**C.5 Receive an update from Friends of the Library Re-Establishment Subcommittee.**

- Will work with LS&S to create marketing and promotion materials.
- John (Paul) Giolma provided text for social media calling for volunteers.
- Subcommittee will provide direction for ongoing marketing push.

**C.6 Receive Patron Feedback.**

The Board reviewed recent patron comments. Discussion included:

- All feedback was positive, referenced good customer service, friendly staff, good selection, printing, beautiful scenery, and mentioned several staff members by name as being welcoming.

**C.7 Receive Library Director's Report.**

- Summer Reading Program starts May 30.
- Increases in library visitors, attendance at programs, number of programs, checkouts, and database usage.
- Library appearance at Metrocrest Services' "Golden Grocery" event for seniors.
- Youth Services Librarian Dustin at Fishin' Fun, successful event.
- Library closed for Memorial Day, May 25.
- Wonderful Wednesdays programs are big events, Wednesdays at 3 pm- Creature Teacher is the biggest event of the summer on June 3.
- Due to the library being a voting site, two events are being moved to the Branch Connection: Creature Teacher on June 3, and KidsNotes on June 10.

**C.8 Receive an update from Board Members on programs, events, or facilities attended in the City of Farmers Branch.**

Kathy (Lee) Alvoid provided the Report. Discussions included:

- Feedback from the events committee that Fishin’ Fun was a successful event with some big fish.
- The next big event is Independence Day on July 3. At the Historical Park with a fireworks show.
- New Fall event upcoming for October. It is an all-day event starting with a 5k run, followed by activities for everyone at different times.

**C.9 Discuss agenda items for future Library Board meetings.**

- John (Paul) Giolma received a message from Joe’s Pizza Pasta & Subs saying that they could provide books for Jólábókaflóð event this year. Will begin the process of finding organizations that need books. Metrocrest Services said they will also take books.
- No July meeting, will reconvene in August.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

John (Paul) Giolma made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Paul Y. Shulz. The motion carried. The May 14, 2026, meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

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Chair

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Staff Liaison