

THE TALBOT COUNTY FREE LIBRARY
100 W. Dover St.
Easton, MD 21601
Minutes of the Board Meeting
June 18, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Susan Sherman at 5:00 pm. Meeting held at the Easton Library.

Attendees: Susan Sherman, Alexis Roiter, Mary Pellicano, Charles Yonkers, Robert Forloney, Ron Engle, Sandy Boyd, Andrew Thaler, Becky Amaral, Pete Leshner, Talbot County Council Liaison, Dana Newman, Director, Scotti Oliver, Assistant Director. Excused: Sue Regier, Terry Moore and Robert Rankin, Town of Easton Liaison
Also attending were Vickie Wilson, strategic planning committee member, Isabella Ryan and Sarah Ramsey from Due East Partners

Action Items:

- Board members voted on and approved the May 21, 2026, minutes.
- Board members voted on and approved the Strategic Plan and Vision, Mission and Values Statement pending edits.
- Board members agreed to close the library on Friday, July 3rd in addition to Saturday, July 4th.
- Board members voted on and accepted the Treasurer's Report.
- Board members voted on and approved to suspend the rules for the installation of officers for this year only.
- Board members voted on and approved the slate of officers and renewals.

Review of the May 21, 2026, minutes: Susan Sherman asked the board if there were any corrections or changes and hearing none asked for a motion to approve with Charlie Yonkers moving and Andrew Thaler seconding. All were in favor with none opposed. The motion carried.

Advocacy sharing:

- Mary Pellicano reported that she attended the Chesapeake Children's Book Festival and it was so well attended. There was a lot of positive feedback from the community.
- Susan Sherman shared that she was at a social event recently and her guests, who had lived in many places over the years, said that the TCFL library is the best library.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Strategic plan presentation and approval
 - Dana thanked everyone for all their help with developing the strategic road map and then presented highlights:

- New vision statement is more active and direct and using the word connected is key as the library is really at the heart of the community. Emphasis on not just growing as human beings but thriving.
- The mission statement emphasizes offering free resources and we support each other as a team.
- The values are new as this had not been included in the previous strategic process and now it is. Two suggestions were given to change “grow” to “growth” and to add that the library is a safe space.
- Further discussion on Community Results and our three goals of Access and Community Connection, Lifelong Learning and Organizational Capacity and Sustainability where the library seeks to expand our outreach to the Spanish speaking community, expand library staff with learning Spanish, expand multicultural materials and programs and more. One suggestion regarding staff learning Spanish is to have that skill be part of their job and compensation and not just checking off a box.
- Some more goals are to bringing in more teens, reaching out to Seniors, grow our funding resources and discuss the hiring of a development person. A board member suggested adding “Develop and retain a strong governing board that represents the community.”

The staff with Due East Partners left the Zoom call so that a vote could be made on the strategic road map.

Susan Sherman asked for a motion to move forward with the big picture of the strategic road map with edits to be completed with Robert Forloney moving and Andrew Thaler seconding. All were in favor with none opposed. The motion carried.

- July 3rd holiday closure discussion
 - Dana Newman explained that the County and several libraries will be closing on Friday, July 3rd. Susan Sherman asked for a motion to approve the library being closed on both Friday, July 3rd and Saturday, July 4th with Becky Amaral moving and Andrew Thaler seconding. All were in favor with none opposed. The motion carried.

President’s Report:

- Susan Sherman did not have a formal report. Susan noted that the bylaws say the new slate of board members are elected in July. She would like to make a motion to override the bylaws and elect new members in June. We would do this for only this year, pending a change in the bylaws. Susan Sherman asked the board to make a motion to suspend the rules for the installation of officers with Becky Amaral moving and Andrew Thaler seconding. All were in favor with none opposed. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Mary Pellicano had sent out her report and is included in these minutes. Earlier, the finance committee reviewed the Income and Expense report and Statement of Activities and approved the documents. To note:

- We are a little more than 91% through the fiscal year and have received 129% of our budgeted revenue.
- On the expense side, we are at almost 127% of what is budgeted. We are doing well.

Susan Sherman asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's report with Becky Amaral moving and Andrew Thaler seconding. All were in favor with none opposed. The motion carried.

County Council Representative's Report-Pete Leshner did not have any news but did report that the budget was passed with the full request for both operating and capital was granted to the library.

Easton Town Council Representative's Report-Robert Rankin was not present and did not have a report.

Librarian's Report - Dana Newman reported

- The library is working with Shore United bank to sign up for a special service that helps to monitor checks.
- The library will be raising money for a book mobile and has had Ed Forte working on a grant.
- Dana encouraged board members to volunteer for a few upcoming events, Popsicles in the Park and helping at the Farmers Market in Easton.
- Dana and Sabine will be attending a fundraiser for the library at Mama Maria's Italian restaurant in Trappe on June 25th at 5pm. We will be the guest bartenders. All are invited.

Diversity and Inclusion Committee: Charlie Yonkers said this committee met on June 10th where they reviewed the current EDIAJ statement on the website, as well as other topics including how to expand membership participation.

Nominating Committee:

Robert Forloney explained to the board that the last time the bylaws were revised was in January of 2022. The executive committee should review these to make necessary updates, particularly in regard to elections in both Article 3 Sec. 4, which covers the election schedule, and Article 6 Sec. 3 related to the nominating committee's process. Currently, the board is given a slate of both officers and new members in May, but we vote on them at the July meeting, and they officially begin their term in September.

Slate of officers and renewals:

Mary Pellicano-President

Sandy Boyd-Vice President

Charles Yonkers-Secretary

Kellsey Stant-Treasurer
New member-Chris Franey
Sue Regier-term ending but will be re-appointed for another 4 year term
Alexis Roiter will be the Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Robert Forloney made a motion to submit the slate of officers and renewals of terms. A second motion is not required. All members of the board approved Robert's motion.

Friends Report:

- There will be a book sale Preview Party on Thursday, July 23rd from 5-7pm and then the book sale is on Friday, July 24th and Saturday, July 25th
- The Friends continue to seek additional Council members and volunteers.

Foundation Report:

- No report as the next meeting is not until July.

The board meeting officially closed at 6:30 pm.

The board went into a closed session at the end of the meeting. The closed session minutes are filed internally.

Reminder: The next board meeting is Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 5 pm at the St. Michaels Library.

Respectfully submitted, Katie Dodds