City of Santa Fe

MINUTES

LIBRARY BOARD
June 16, 2026
5:45 PM
IN-PERSON MEETING

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**
Meeting called to Order at 5:46 PM

2. **ROLL CALL**
Members Present:
Member Meghan McGarrity
Member William Karnoscak
Member Nicholas Taylor
Member Tamina Painter
Member Adele Oliveira
Library Director Margaret Neill

Members Excused:
Member Kate Goddard
Member Mark Lupinetti

Others Attending:
Michael J. Garcia, Mayor, City of Santa Fe
Jamie Cassutt, Santa Fe City Councilor, District 4
Cav Venditti, Deputy Director, Metropolitan Redevelopment Agency
Lillian Letters, Incoming President of the Friends of the Santa Fe Public Library
Georgina McKee, Executive Director, Friends of the Santa Fe Public Library

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Member Meghan McGarrity moved to change the agenda by moving Item 8, New Business, to the top of the agenda to prioritize discussions of Fogelson with the Mayor and Guests. Member William Karnoscak made the motion to approve the Agenda as amended. Member Adele Oliveira seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Approval of minutes from the May 19, 2026, meeting. Adele Oliveria made a motion to approve the May minutes, William Karnoscak seconded. Unanimous approval.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
None

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Margaret Neill stated that she had created a comparison chart for metrics in FY26 versus FY25. Discussion of statistics, growth in some areas, decline in others. Margaret Neill stated that dips were normal as staff are no longer able to grow services and programs, and the Library is focusing on sustaining existing programs and services. Discussion of some of the ways the Library is trying to reach out to families, teens and seniors, such as ASL story time and Sensory story time, discussion of the growth in programming.

Meghan McGarrity asked for an update on fire suppression systems at Main, discussion of process and what the vendor discovered. Further discussion of Facilities outsourcing projects and finding funds to pay for deferred maintenance projects. Nicholas Taylor requested more information on the cost structure of digital media; discussion of the different digital services, their service models, cost, and the impact of increased use. Discussion of funding sources, including New Mexico State Library funding. Discussion of the collection and growth, including disposal. Margaret Neill stated that the end of fiscal year is approaching and Library is working to close out funding and reporting. Discussion of processes for closing the budget.

Discussion of current Library Advisory Board roles, responsibilities, and charter. Meghan McGarrity requested that the discussion of the Charter be moved to the next meeting.

William Karnoscak stated that the Friends of the Library has voted on a budget for the new fiscal year for the library. He also stated that the Friends had an election and that Lillian Letters will be replacing Joan Marshall as President of the Friends, William Karnoscak will be the new Vice President, replacing Lillian. Book sales have been strong, new volunteers are helping to create additional funding streams via selling rare books online.

7. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

None.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

Meghan McGarrity stated that the Santa Fe Public Library System is a beloved institution, but it is “bedraggled” and in need of resources. Discussion of La Farge and its role serving the midtown area and the planning process for Fogelson so far, including opportunities to reimagine Main Library downtown. Meghan McGarrity stated that parking is an issue downtown and that she hopes parking at Fogelson will be free. Discussion of ideas for transforming Fogelson into the ‘main’ or ‘central’ branch.

Margaret Neill stated that she had received a draft of the 3-5 year strategic plan and was pleasantly surprised to see that there was a lot of support for Fogelson from the community during the public comment process. Discussion of Fogelson as an anchor institution for midtown. William Karnoscak stated that there is a lot happening at midtown, discussion of new businesses opening, construction of new facilities. Meghan McGarrity stated that a concern was the size and scope of this project, noting that the Library had less staff now than pre-COVID, discussion of costs, available resources, condition of existing facilities. Adele Oliveira stated that La Farge is no longer serving the midtown community due to its size. Margaret Neill stated that La Farge only has one programming room and maximum occupancy is 40.

Discussion of the importance of La Farge to the community. Guest Lillian Letters commented that the community should be involved, suggesting something like what the Library did when Main was moved across the street to its current space, when the public formed a ‘bucket brigade’ to move books into the new building, giving them a sense of ownership of the process and the new space. Discussion of bringing the community into the process.

Mayor Michael Garcia stated that Fogelson is a major project for his administration and that he wants to move it forward and have it open to the public in 3 years. Discussion of design work, community input, and everything necessary to bring the project to completion in that time frame. Mayor Michael Garcia stated that Fogelson is a significant historical structure. Discussion of Fogelson as a community hub, the importance of tradition. Mayor Michael Garcia stated that he wants to create a “new” rainbow tunnel to give children, families and guests the same sense of belonging that they had at La Farge.

Discussion of costs, funding sources, public-private partnerships, potential to create a truly unique space recognized not just locally, but nationally.

Discussion of the importance of taking community feedback in terms of the kinds of programs and services offered. Mayor Michael Garcia stated that the midtown campus is starting to come together with new businesses, housing and more and he wants to see Fogelson play an important role in the new midtown. Mayor Michael Garcia also stated that Cav Venditti has been working on identifying funding opportunities, including putting the Fogelson project into the CIP legislative appropriations from the offices of Senators Ben Ray Lujan, Martin Heinrich and Representative Teresa Leger-Fernandez, putting in an application for historical status, which, if approved, would allow the City to pursue other funding sources, there are also other grants being considered. Discussion of architectural firms and design work and the key partners who will be working with the firm/City for design and input, further discussion of roles.

Cav Venditti commented that there will be affordable housing within walking distance to the Library and developers view having a Library in the neighborhood very positively. Cav Venditti also stated that the empty lot outside the main windows, looking towards St. Michaels will have a surface parking lot for library patrons that will be free.

Meghan McGarrity stated that she is interested in knowing how the City will be working with the County, saying that she hopes the County takes a role in this project as it has the potential to benefit so many people in the area. Discussion of current County support, discussion of other libraries in the County who also receive funding. Mayor Michael Garcia stated that there will be a City/County joint meeting at the end of July and that he hopes this increased level of partnership will help with funding gaps, although they have not met yet and Mayor Garcia is looking forward to productive discussions to cover many areas, not just the Library. Discussion of opportunities, how the LAB can help support these discussions.

Councilor Jamie Cassutt stated that there had been some community input (via the Library's strategic plan public meetings) and is interested in working with Margaret Neill and Cav Venditti to incorporate feedback.

Margaret Neill stated that some of the information gathered during the strategic plan meetings show public interest and what they are asking for. Discussion of different requests and needs. Meghan McGarrity stated that she had been told initially by the previous administration that there was interested in putting City offices in Fogelson temporarily and that she was interested in understanding what the City's vision of Fogelson was and how it will be used. Discussion of vision, getting community input to create a library for the community.

Georgina McKee stated that the Friends of the Library want to be kept informed as the expectation is that they will be fundraising for the building renovation. Discussion of different roles, best practice for raising both awareness and funds and how the Friends and the Board can be advocates. Lillian Letters stated that the Friends MOU had been approved and signed, giving the Friends the ability to do capital fundraising for the Library, in addition to its existing fundraising and advocacy for the Library. Discussion of advocacy, fundraising and the potential for the building to meet community needs. Further discussion on La Farge and the future, potential opportunities for Main Library.

9. **OLD BUSINESS**

Meghan McGarrity requested an update on the security camera project at Southside. Margaret Neill replied that the project is almost completed. Margaret Neill stated that she has the draft of the Strategic Plan that was worked on by Prospera Partners and that she will be submitting it to the New Mexico State Library on time. Margaret Neill also stated that the Friends MOU has been approved and signed by all relevant parties, which will allow much easier collaboration in the future

10. **NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at La Farge Library at 5:45 PM.

11. **ADJOURN:** Meghan McGarrity made a motion to end the meeting and begin the tour of the Fogelson building, William Karnoscak seconded, meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Liaison

Chair