



# MINUTES

LIBRARY BOARD

January 20, 2026

5:45 PM

IN-PERSON

MEETING

- 
1. **CALL TO ORDER**  
Meeting called to Order at 5:45 PM
  
  2. **ROLL CALL**  
**Members Present:**  
Member Meghan McGarrity  
Member Aurora Hvidsten  
Member William Karnoscak  
Member Adele Oliveira  
Member Tamina Painter  
Library Director Margaret Neill  
  
**Members Excused:**  
Member Mark Lupinetti  
  
**Others Attending:**  
Therese Martinez, Project Manager, Clerk
  
  3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
Member William Karnoscak made the motion to approve the Agenda.  
Member Tamina Painter seconded the motion.  
Unanimous approval.
  
  4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
    - a. Minutes of the December 16, 2025, meeting of the Library Advisory Board.  
Member William Karnoscak asked for a correction in the New Business section, page 6, before item 9, Matthew Contos' last name was misspelled.  
Member Aurora Hvidsten made the motion to approve the December Meeting Minutes as amended.  
Member William Karnoscak seconded the motion.  
Unanimous approval.
  
  5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**  
None.
  
  6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
    - a. Margaret Neill, Library Division Director, [mmneill@santafenm.gov](mailto:mmneill@santafenm.gov).
    - b. Comparison Charts for Statistics



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Margaret Neill stated they were informed today that the mayor intends to reorganize the Community Health and Safety. Henri Hammond-Paul's position is being eliminated, and Community Services is being moved back to where it was pre-covid. It will be Community Services Department with Library, Senior Programs, Recreation, and Youth and Family (Divisions). Discussion on what this means for the Library. Margaret added that the head of the Seniors Program Division was asked to be the Interim of the Community Services Department, his name is Manuel Sanchez. Discussion on the impacts of the reorganization and the posting of open positions, the appointments the mayor is capable of making (City attorney, City clerk, and City manager). Margaret stated the Interim City Manager is Brian Moya, former Fire Chief, the Interim City Clerk is Geralyn Cardenas who was the former Deputy City Clerk, and the Interim City Attorney is Marcos Martinez, who was Assistant City Attorney. The Interim Finance Director is the current Deputy City Manager, Andrea Phillips. Discussion of other interim positions. Margaret stated Midtown (MRA-Metropolitan Redevelopment Agency) had gotten money for an archivist position for Fogelson. Carley Venditti sent her the job description for the contractor position. Margaret provided input. The position would also be for the Garson Theater archives. Discussion on the duties of the archivist for conducting an inventory and evaluation of the materials. Discussion on the RMKM Report. Margaret stated on the charts provided she included Quarters one and two. She did a comparison for fiscal 2025 to Quarters one and two of fiscal 2026. There were some dips, and these will probably be made up. There was a slight dip in physical circulation, but digital circulation went up a lot. There was an increase in (new) library cards. The adult and general interest programs (attendance) have gone down, but that was expected as they are doing less adult programs to focus on teens. The Children's Programs attendance and Young Adult attendance are both doing very well. Discussion on YA (Young Adult) programming. They also want to focus on tweens. Discussion on tweens. Discussion on a nine-year-old who proposed program for a tween book club. The public computer sessions had a little bit of a dip, they had some issues with the computer management system, so that's not surprising. She is hoping they will catch up on the numbers. She has challenged the Branch Managers to push the physical materials. Discussion on physical circulation issues, vendors, buying local, B&T going out of business, and patron requests. The interior assessment (of the Main Library) was funded through a state legislative appropriation. It kicks off next week with the assessment of the interior of the building; what they can do for upgrades for patron comfort, enjoyment, accessibility, etc. At the Legislative Breakfast she recently attended, the legislators made it clear there is a seven-billion-dollar allocation for capital projects that hasn't been spent. Any project proposal must be shovel ready (to get legislative funding). She received the Finance Department Memo with the budget priorities. There is a flat budget this (next fiscal) year. The operations budget has not been increased since she's been Director. She has asked all her departments to consider what a two percent (2%) reduction would look like.

LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Page 2 of

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The only areas where they can make cuts are Books and Materials, Online Databases, Office Supplies, Operating Funds, and Security Contracts. Everything else is salaries and benefits. Discussion on outside of the building continuous facilities maintenance (landscaping) funding that was discussed with Henri Hammond-Paul and Maria Sanchez-Tucker. Margaret added that since the budget is going to be flat, they will not be adding anything new, which means no Sunday openings unless the mayor wants to prioritize that, because they need staff. Further discussion on cuts, voting on the new organizational Chart, and recruiting for a new Department Director after the Governing Body approves the new organizing. Margaret Neill stated she had talked to the person recommended on consulting on the Strategic Plan and the Community Assessment. Margaret stated the current vacancy rate is 2%, currently there is one opening and the list of eligibles has been obtained.

7. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- a. Mark Lupinetti, President of the Library Advisory Board, [fmllupinetti@hotmail.com](mailto:fmllupinetti@hotmail.com).

Mark Lupinetti sent in his report. He sent out notifications to all the legislators (on the pending Book Banning Bill) and received eight responses out of 104. Five responses were supportive, two were vague, one said, "do you live in my district?". Meghan McGarrity said she was curious how the Friends' campaign is going. Margaret Neill added she and Mark Lupinetti interviewed all the candidates for the vacant position on the Library Advisory Board. One candidate was actually out in the County so that person was not eligible. There was a mix of different perspectives/abilities/backgrounds. No decision has been made. The goal was to discuss all the candidates. A decision will be made by next month's meeting.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Budget Changes

This item was discussed in the Director's Report. A flat budget is anticipated. Margaret Neill stated the City is changing how they are going to be doing the budget. There was a community input budget meeting earlier in the month. She thinks the focus for budget priorities is public safety and infrastructure. The budget template has not been received yet.

- b. Friends of the Library Report-William Karnoscak

William stated that the Friends pushed out a Bookmark (newsletter) through various avenues on the book banning issue. There's no way to track reactions on the issue. The senior buyer at Collected Works is allowing the Friends to blast their 10,000-member mailing list with the links to legislators, the governor, etc. Discussion on the upcoming short 30-day session. Discussion on NMLA group involvement, lobbying issues, newspaper reporting, editorials, debating the issue. William stated that the Friends are trying to get an independent screening on the documentary, *The Librarians*. It focuses on states where librarians are been forced to remove materials from their collections without cause.

# MINUTES

Discussion on Texas doing forced removals of materials. In addition, William stated that the Friends are trying to find a venue to co-sponsor the event (CCA, the New Mexico History Museum). William stated they are trying to put more volunteers into service. There is expressed interest by the volunteers. Discussion on the Friends' google drive information. William added that the year-end annual additional donations ask resulted in \$88,000.00 from 190 donors. Of the 190, 131 were first time donors. He will be asking the higher end donors what motivated them to contribute, why, and what can they do to get their continued support, etc. Bookstore sales (at Main and Southside) were incredibly robust in 2025. Story lab (storytelling hour-quarterly) will be at the former Violet Crown (now Sky Cinema) in the railyard. The Friends secured the theatre on March 11, 2026, at 6:30 PM. Discussion on the event. The Friends now feel a need for a Strategic Plan. Discussion on both strategic plans (Library and Friends), and information sharing. There has been tweaking of the color palette of the Friends' logo, and discussion on turning the book around also. Joan Marshall reported at the Friends' last Board meeting that there has not been progress made on the Friends' MOU/GOA.

## 9. OLD BUSINESS

### a. Strategic Plan Development-Status Update.

Discussion on KPI's (Key Performance Indicators) for the Library's Strategic Plan. Margaret Neill said she had submitted KPI's so they could benchmark different things which were revised by Henri Hammond Paul and Maria Sanchez-Tucker. One (of the metrics) had to do with facilities, which had to have a 90% completion rate and the Libraries will be held to that standard. The other KPI which was presented and accepted stated that 25% of all the books purchased this next year have to be Spanish language. That is an impossible reach because previously it was 3%. She cannot dedicate that big of a chunk of her already allocated book budget money specifically to Spanish language materials/books. Discussion on Spanish language material issues and allocated funding. Maintaining a vacancy rate that is 2% or under and staff Mandatory City Annual Trainings, are the KPI's that can be met. Discussion on the Library Advisory Board's role in strategic planning according to the City Attorney, key stakeholders, and contractual assistance with the Plan.

### b. Friends of the Library MOU/GOA-Status Update.

Covered in the Friends of the Library Report.

### c. Library Advisory Board open position for City Member-Status Update.

Covered in President's Report. Discussion on covering this subject at the next meeting and making a selection, the position being approved by the mayor before making an official announcement, on Friends' funding being used for the contractual consultant for the Strategic Plan(s), public comment on the Library's Strategic Plan, input from Library Staff, inviting the consultant to the next LAB meeting.

William Karnoscak commented that the application for requesting to be a storyteller for the Story Lab is on the Collected Works website.



# MINUTES

LIBRARY BOARD  
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---

Margaret Neill commented that they are beginning the LENA Start Program. A recorder (talking pedometer) is put on a baby, funded through a grant obtained by Maria Sanchez-Tucker, it is basically talking to an infant helps develop their language skills, which helps develop their reading skills. The device tracks the interactions with people. The Library did not have the staff nor time to do the program, so the Friends are paying a contract person to run the program. They now have ten sign-ups for the English program and one for the Spanish program. Discussion on the program.

10. **NEXT MEETING:**

- a. Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at the La Farge Branch Library at 5:45 PM.

11. **ADJOURN:**

Tamina Painter made the Motion to adjourn the meeting.  
Aurora Hvidsten seconded the Motion.  
Unanimous approval  
The Meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM.

*Therese Martinez*

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Liaison

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Chair



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Page 5 of