Franklin Park Public Library District
Regular Board Meeting of September 9, 2025

The Board meeting was called to order by Board President Grieashamer at 7:00 PM.

Board members present: Katy Boehm, Betsy Chaidez, Kay Frey, Frank Grieashamer, Jeremy Mazur, Michael Vallone

Board members absent: Debra Benacka

Staff members present: Vanessa Morrison, Executive Director; Marcin Wrobel, Assistant Director

Others in Attendance: Jorge Huicochea, Adult & Teen Services Assistant Librarian II

Public Comment
Staff member Jorge Huicochea made a statement to the Board regarding a trustee discussing Hispanic Heritage Month programming and its promotion on social media with front-line staff.

Disposition of Minutes
Frey moved and Chaidez seconded that the minutes of the Budget & Appropriations Hearing of August 12, 2025, be approved. Motion #1 carried. Voice vote: Aye – 6, Nay – 0, Absent – 1, Abstain – 0.

Mazur moved and Boehm seconded that the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of August 12, 2025, be approved. Motion #2 carried. Voice vote: Aye – 6, Nay – 0, Absent – 1, Abstain – 0.

Financial Reports and Approval of Expenditures
Vallone read the financial reports. One handwritten check (#5676) and forty-two vendor checks (#10055-10096) from Wintrust Bank Checking and 17 direct debits were issued in the month of August totaling $63,204.77. Payroll checks in the amount of $62,995.82 with $24,238.33 in taxes and $4,265.63 in other withholdings were issued in August. In August, the IMRF payment was made in the amount of $4,160.09. The warrant shows a total disbursement for operation of $158,864.64.

Frey moved and Vallone seconded the approval of expenditures. Motion #3 carried. Boehm – Aye, Chaidez – Aye, Frey – Aye, Grieashamer – Aye, Mazur – Aye, Vallone – Aye. Nay – 0, Absent – 1, Abstain – 0.

Communications
None.

Committee Reports
None.

Executive Director and Staff Reports
Morrison's written report to the Board was included in the Board packet along with Adult & Teen Services, Patron Services, and Youth Services department reports.

Unfinished Business

Planning & Grants
Morrison updated the Board on the ongoing stages of the Strategic Planning process and reminded them about the upcoming Board & Leadership Team Retreat later in September. Several grants that were applied for or were in the process of being applied for were discussed. Other possible grant resources were also discussed.

Annex
Overgrown and unkempt shrubbery around the building was removed. Most of the records that were stored in the Annex were removed. Morrison discussed the tentative Annex Project Timeline with the Board.

Policy Discussion
The Meeting Room Policy is being updated. Mazur had a question about the VR Headset borrowing policy.

Taxing Issue
There was no report.

Flagpole
There was no report.

Review of Executive/Closed Session Minutes
Discussed during Closed/Executive Session.

New Business

Hours and Board Meeting Dates
The Board was presented with a list of possible dates for Library holiday closings in 2026 and a list of possible dates for Board meeting dates in 2026.

Boehm moved and Chaidez seconded the approval of holiday closing dates (with one correction) and board meeting dates for 2026. Motion #4 carried. Boehm – Aye, Chaidez – Aye, Frey – Aye, Grieashamer – Aye, Mazur – Aye, Vallone – Aye. Nay – 0, Absent – 1, Abstain – 0.

Library Safety
Morrison updated the Board about the uptick in library security issues. Wrobel shared details about the meeting with representatives from the Franklin Park Police Department.

Food in the Library
Morrison discussed creating a cafe-type space in the library that patrons can use when they need to eat but want to stay in the building.

Executive Director's Annual Review
Discussed during Closed/Executive Session.

Closed/Executive Session
Grieashamer moved and Chaidez seconded that the meeting enter Executive Session to discuss the following:
- Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance or Dismissal of Certain Employees 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)
- Security Procedures 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8)
- Probable or Imminent Litigation 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(12)
- Discussion of Minutes of Meetings Closed Under the Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21)

Motion #5 carried. Boehm – Aye, Chaidez – Aye, Frey – Aye, Grieashamer – Aye, Mazur – Aye, Vallone – Aye. Nay – 0, Absent – 1, Abstain – 0.

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:17 PM. Assistant Director Wrobel left Executive Session at 8:44 PM.

The Board exited Executive Session at 8:54 PM. No action was taken during Executive Session.

All trustees were still present along with Executive Director Morrison.

Review of Executive/Closed Session Minutes
Chaidez moved and Frey seconded keeping the Executive/Closed Session Minutes from January 14, 2025 confidential. Motion #6 carried. Boehm – Aye, Chaidez – Aye, Frey – Aye, Grieashamer – Aye, Mazur – Aye, Vallone – Aye. Nay – 0, Absent – 1, Abstain – 0.

Grieashamer moved and Chaidez seconded releasing all other Executive/Closed Session Minutes presented. Motion #7 carried. Boehm – Aye, Chaidez – Aye, Frey – Aye, Grieashamer – Aye, Mazur – Aye, Vallone – Aye. Nay – 0, Absent – 1, Abstain – 0.

Executive Director's Annual Review
Boehm moved and Chaidez seconded renewing Morrison's contract with a raise of 3.5%. Motion #8 carried. Boehm – Aye, Chaidez – Aye, Frey – Aye, Grieashamer – Aye, Mazur – Aye, Vallone – Aye. Nay – 0, Absent – 1, Abstain – 0.

Adjournment
Boehm moved and Chaidez seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion #9 carried. Voice vote: Aye – 6, Nay – 0, Absent – 1, Abstain – 0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM.