Minutes
of the Board of Directors Meeting
February 5, 2026
Noon

Present: Karen Taylor, *Chair*; Rick Costello; Andrew Diaz-Matos; Carlos Galdamez; Floyd Green; Sara Lashetski; Patsy Mundy; Dan O'Shea; Mark Overmyer-Velazquez; Margaret Sweetland Patricelli; Phyllis Shikora; Tim Sullivan, Jr.; Tyrone Walker, and Robin Zaleski.

Also Present: Bridget E. Quinn, President and CEO; Gwen Cannon, Human Resources Director; Leticia Cotto, Chief Administrative Officer; Gina Federico, Director of Development; Marie Jarry, Chief Operating Officer; Homa Naficy, Executive Director, The American Place; Mary Tzambazakis, Chief Financial Officer and General Counsel, Karl Fisher, Finance Director; Andrea Figueroa, Senior Executive Assistant, and Leon Ha, DLL Manager.

1. Call to Order

Chair Karen Taylor called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

2. Consent Agenda

Board action: Motion was made to approve the consent agenda that included minutes of the December 4, 2025 Board of Directors meeting; minutes of the December 10, 2025 RRR Capital Campaign Committee meeting, and minutes of the January 29, 2026 Executive Committee meeting. The motion was moved by Rick Costello and was seconded by Phyllis Shikora. The motion carried.

3. Mission Moment

Ms. Quinn introduced Leon Ha, Digital Library Lab Manager. Leon has been with HPL for a little over 3 months. He gave a presentation on where things are with DLL, located on the ground floor of the Library, and currently works with non-profit and for-profit organizations. Leon invited anyone interested in taking a tour after the meeting.

4. **President and CEO's Report**

Ms. Bridget Quinn shared some highlights of the CEO's report. Budget-wise, HPL is ahead for revenue and under for expense, which is where it should be. Because this is a quarterly report, some of the numbers are older. Always good to see that collections use numbers are enhanced. Foot traffic has shifted back a bit through Downtown. Interesting to see how that would look in the next couple of years once Downtown fully opens in this June. Ms. Quinn asked all to save the date for June 1, 2026 at 11AM for the ribbon cutting of the fully renovated Downtown. All Library locations will close for the morning so that employees can celebrate. The first week of June, will be offering program service events that will include partners like UConn, HPATV, and special events at HPL Studios. Hartford Symphony Orchestra will be part of that. A sneak peak will be offered sometime in May to the Board and Ambassadors.

Ms. Quinn gave a quick update on the Barbour Street Project. There were challenges needing to comply with state code. The first was to ask for a variance from the State which was denied. The second was to negotiate with the neighboring property owner which did not go through, and the third was to go before the Zoning Board of Appeals to request a change to the setback requirements, which was denied. The City has been helpful in pushing this forward. HPL is back on the agenda for March 3 and Ms. Quinn will be sending a link to the Board for extra support.

Ms. Karen Taylor gave a shout out to Ms. Quinn and team for consistently adapting to challenges and continuing to stick with moving the Barbour Project forward.

5. **Board Chair's Report**

Ms. Karen Taylor thanked all Board members who were able to attend Gilda's retirement send-off. Ms. Taylor also made the Board aware that there is some interest from Cigna on someone who is interested in joining. A meeting is on the calendar for conversations later this month. Ms. Taylor and Ms. Quinn will begin prepping for budget season. A meeting with the Mayor is scheduled for February 18 to discuss the Library budget. Ms. Taylor thanked the Board for giving her grace and support in her first quarter as Chair. She would like to hear from all on ways that the Board contributes, what motivates all, or what kinds of things everyone would like to do more of and see how to incorporate that into the March 6th retreat agenda.

6. Committees and Task Force Reports

Development Committee

Ms. Quinn gave a quick update on behalf of Sarah Needham. All Board members will be receiving via email a Board Giving Form as in past years. For the newer members, the forms asks what your giving plans over the next year would be, including BW tickets, annual fund, etc.

Strategic Planning Update

Ms. Sara Lashetski gave an update on where things are. Phase 2 was completed, which was the date gathering side. Now on entering Phase 3 is working through all of the data that has been gathered to draft the strategic plan.

7. New Business

Social Media Policy for Employees

The Social Media Policy for Employees was first created in 2014, but over the years, there has been recognition of other social media platforms for communication. The change in this policy is to provide some flexibility and creativity in the way HPL markets and communicates with Library approved platforms.

Board action: A motion was made to accept the Social Media Policy updates. The motion was moved by Sara Lashetski and seconded by Andrew Diaz-Matos. The motion carried.

8. Other Business

Ms. Quinn shared an announcement about a new position, Chief Advancement Officer.

9. Executive Session

Board action: A motion was made by Rick Costello at 1:20 to go into Executive Session to discuss the Local 1716 Union Contract and Nutmeg Contract; motion seconded by Phyllis Shikora. Motion passed unanimously. Karl, Marie, Mary and Gwen were asked to stay. The Board exited Executive Session at 1:35.

Board action: A motion was made to approve the Tentative Agreement for a Successor Agreement to the Agreement expiring June 30, 2024, between the Hartford Public Library and Evelyn Ball Professional Unit Local 1716 of Council 4 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO. The motion was moved by Phyllis Shikora and seconded by Rick Costello. The motion carried.

Board action: A motion was made to approve the Nutmeg Contract authorizing Bridget Quinn as the signatory for the MOU. The motion was moved by Dan O'Shea and seconded by Rick Costello. The motion carried.

10. Adjourn

Board action: With no other business, a motion to adjourn was made. The motion was made by Mark Overmyer-Velazquez and seconded by Robin Zaleski. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1:38PM

Respectfully submitted,
Bridget E. Quinn
President and CEO