

ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Wednesday, December 17, 2025
5:15 PM –Central Library

Trustees in Attendance	Trustees not in Attendance	Staff in Attendance
<p>Ms. Adams Mr. Brown Mr. Courtemanche Ms. De Cuevas Ms. Espenshade Dr. Farmer Dr. Jensen Mr. Kaufman Mr. Koff Ms. Lasher Mr. Rosenberg Mr. Valentine</p>	<p>Mr. Boothe Mr. Caplan Mr. Donato Ms. Gohn Mr. Hillman Mr. Miller Ms. Moser Dr. Naff Mr. Reid</p>	<p>Ms. Box Ms. Breck Mr. Cassini Ms. Fisher Mr. Johnson Mr. Lewis Ms. Monahan Ms. Reighard Ms. Scheuerman Mr. Smit Ms. Vidmar</p>

I. Chair, Christine Espenshade called the meeting to order at 5:19 PM

II. Approval of Minutes of the Wednesday, September 10, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting

A request for a motion was made by Chair, Ms. Christine Espenshade to approve the Minutes of the September 10, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Benjamin Rosenberg and seconded by Ms. Virginia Adams

*****ACTION: The Board of Trustees approved the minutes from the Wednesday, September 10, 2025 meeting.*****

III. Ratification of the Actions of the Board of Directors

A request for a motion was made by Chair, Ms. Christine Espenshade to ratify the actions of the Board of Directors at September 10, 2025 meeting. The motion was made by Ms. Patricia Lasher and seconded by Mr. Benjamin Rosenberg

*****ACTION: The Board of Trustees ratified the actions of the Board of Directors at the Wednesday, September 10, 2025 meeting.*****

IV. Chair's Remarks

Ms. Espenshade began her remarks by welcoming the Board to the meeting and thanking the Board for their attendance and participation at meetings and events. Ms. Espenshade offered her apologies for scheduling the December board meeting so close to Christmas. Ms. Espenshade highlighted the Johnston Square library branch grand opening on November 10th. She emphasized how excited the community was for this project and how beautiful the new branch turned out.

Ms. Espenshade called attention to the success of the House of Melo exhibit, noting how enthusiastic the children were to attend. Ms. Espenshade concluded her events highlights with a congratulations to the Library for hosting Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Ms. Espenshade briefly discussed the newly released Annual Report, telling the Board how uplifting the Library can be even on a flat budget. She looked forward to Mr. Chad Helton's further presentation of the Annual Report during his portion of the meeting.

Ms. Espenshade thanked the Audit Committee and Ms. Sri Veeramachaneni for completing the Audit for FY23 and FY24. Ms. Espenshade concluded her thanks by recognizing Mr. Robert Hillman's efforts as co-chair of the Mr. Pratt Presents gala. She looked forward to the next fundraising event, the Black and White Party at the end of January. Ms. Espenshade concluded her remarks by promoting continued attendance for committee and Board meetings

V. Report on City and State Operating Budgets

The City and State Operating Budgets report was included in the Board Book and stands as is.

VI. Public Comment

Ms. Brigitte V. Fessenden of the Mencken House Museum expressed her disappointment in the change of the Mencken Room name. She understood the reasoning behind the decision but disagreed with the final decision. Ms. Fessenden promoted Mr. Mencken's work and contributions to the field of Journalism.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business; the meeting was adjourned by Chair, Christine Espenshade at 5:45 PM. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 5:15 pm at the Johnston Square Branch.