

HELEN M. PLUM MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
411 S. Main St. • Lombard, IL 60148

LILAC PARADE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 20, 2026
5:30pm
Conference Room

- I. Call to order
 - a. Chair Aasmundstad Walsh called the meeting of the Lilac Parade Committee to order at 5:32pm in the Conference Room.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
 - a. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Chair Aasmundstad Walsh read the Land Acknowledgement Statement: The Helen Plum Library Board of Trustees unanimously acknowledges that many indigenous groups once lived on the land where the Library now resides. The Library invites all to learn their histories, cultures, and peoples. The Library Board encourages our neighbors to explore learning opportunities through local, Indigenous-based organizations such as Midwest SOARRING Foundation.
- IV. Roll call, recording both present and absent members, with approved virtual attendance noted with an *
 - a. Present: Chair Kristin Aasmundstad Walsh, Trustee Allison Pinkett-Floyd, Trustee Kelly Simms, Helen Plum Library Foundation Director Mark Geiger
 - b. Absent: None
 - c. Staff members present: Executive Director Anne Luzeniecki, Community Engagement Coordinator Kimberly Sipek, Executive Assistant Jenn Ferguson
 - d. Visitors: None
- V. Public Comment
 - a. No members of the public were present.
- VI. ACTION ITEM: Adoption of the Agenda
 - a. Trustee Pinkett-Floyd moved to adopt agenda, seconded by Trustee Simms. All ayes, no nays. Motion passed.
- VII. DISCUSSION: 2026 Lilac Parade Participation
 - a. Lilac Parade date May 17 (third Sunday in May) at 1:30pm
 - i. Need to assemble at the staging location around 11:30am.
 - b. Objective of participation:

- i. Chair Aasmundstad Walsh outlined the objective for participation as visibility, representation, and opportunity to reach the spectrum of Lombard residents and those from surrounding communities that attend the parade as viewers. In addition, it can provide an opportunity to promote Summer Reading or other programs, if desired.
- c. Timeline
 - i. Application for participation is due April 8. It was agreed that the Library would complete the application and pay for registration.
 - ii. Planning would occur during monthly committee meetings prior to Board meetings on February 17, March 18, and April 21. Meetings would be at 5:30pm, to be adjusted if additional meeting time is needed.
- d. Budget
 - i. Executive Director Luzeniecki noted some flexibility in the budget. \$1,000 was originally allocated for the parade, but \$2,500 can be utilized with the addition of funds from under-budget line items.
- e. The following ideas were discussed based on brainstorming and examples of other local libraries' participation in their own community parades.
 - i. Walking group comprised of staff, Trustees, Foundation Directors, volunteers, and a book bike
 - 1. Having a supplemental vehicle (ex. decorated SUV) to carry items like water for volunteers and/or hold extra giveaway items was considered.
 - 2. A book bike for the Library is being ordered which can be included if received in time. The parade would be the premiere of the book bike to the public.
 - 3. Encourage patrons to sign up as volunteer walkers – potential focus on families, Teen Advisory Board (can include participation in volunteer application for this year), and local teens looking for volunteer hours.
 - a. Parade shirts – HPL brand colors to fit with “Happy 250th Birthday America” theme; navy and white suggested
 - i. Possible different colored shirts (with the same design) to denote staff vs. library patrons vs. Foundation participants. This would allow for the incorporation of red, white, and blue.
 - 4. Carry banners (2 allowed) for the Library and the Foundation.
 - a. Use HPL banner from last year’s parade.
 - ii. Storybook/iconic characters, decorated book carts
 - 1. The Statue of Liberty and Uncle Sam were suggested. It was agreed that more than one character would be needed if pursuing the option.
 - 2. The Library received a donated purple book cart which could be altered and decorated for use.
 - iii. Signs promoting reading, library cards, Summer Reading Program, or “Read Local”
 - 1. Book-shaped balloons were suggested.
 - iv. Giveaways: bookmarks, candy, pencils/pens, hand fans, frisbees, small books

1. Pinwheels and stickers were suggested.
2. Community Engagement Coordinator Sipek noted that Marketing has looked into pencils you can plant for flowers.
 - a. Marketing will be asked to research ideas or programming tie-ins. It was noted that a plantable pencil or bookmark would align with the Library Vision's *grow* component.
3. The Library will do parade BINGO again, which can tie into parade participation.
- v. It was agreed that components would connect around the Library's chosen theme, which would align in some way to the "Happy 250th Birthday America" parade theme. Themes suggested included:
 - a. Read, White (or Write) & Blue
 - b. Something focused on American history rather than birthdays
- f. The following items were noted for research and requested for discussion at the February 17 meeting:
 - i. Have quotes or basic estimates for giveaways and T-shirts.
 1. Include potential shirt designs to present/discuss.
 - ii. Executive Director Luzeniecki will connect with Youth Services Manager Tabatha Anderson on how best to do patron/teen volunteer signups and potential volunteer count limits (possible limit based on shirt pricing).
 - iii. Foundation members interested in participating will be surveyed at the next Foundation meeting (February 2).
 - iv. A check-in with Library staff will be conducted to organize interested participants.
 - v. The parade organizers will be contacted regarding if it is necessary to have separate registrations for the Library and the Foundation, or if separate banners but combined registration is acceptable.

VIII. Adjournment: 6:38pm

- a. Chair Aasmundstad Walsh moved to adjourn. Trustee Pinkett-Floyd seconded the motion. All ayes, no nays. Meeting adjourned.

Notes taken by Jenn Ferguson.

Approved: _____

Julie Kowalski-Schmidt
Board Secretary