

BROOKINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
July 16, 2026
MEETING MINUTES

The Board of Trustees of the Brookings Public Library met on Thursday, July 16, at 12:00 pm in the Historical Room at the Brookings Public Library.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathy Miller, Mark Binkley, Allison Schmitt, Denise Hall, and Moriah Flanagan

OTHERS PRESENT: Ashia Gustafson, Johnny Mays, Shane Andreasen

1. Call to Order

Allison Schmitt called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Agenda

Allison Schmitt approved the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes

Allison Schmitt approved the meeting minutes from June 11, 2026.

4. Open Forum

5. Old Business

6. Other Items & Reports

6.1 Financial Report

Ashia Gustafson presented a review of the 2026 budget through June to the Library Board members.

6.2 Librarian's Report

Programming:

Children: Registrations for the Summer Reading Program are up to 978, which is up 18 from 2025. 392 people attended the Paleontologist for a Day event. The transportation saw one of the highest attendance levels ever with 604 attendees. The children's cooking class hosted groups of 30 kids per session with 4 different recipes. The Reading Dragons program and battling Library Staff is going great with 637 battles in June.

Teen: 129 teens have registered for the summer reading program which is the highest number since 2022. Programming has been going great with wonderful attendance including: 11 teens at June's Teen Hang Zone, 8 attendees for Abstract Portraits, 12 making beaded plants for Workshop Wednesday, 11 making strawberry crisp at Teens in the Kitchen, 19 attending book club and graphic novel club. Jenny Kluck is partnering with the Teen Center at the Boys & Girls Club this summer to hold Workshop Wednesday there once a month and 7 of their teens attended and made beaded plants in June. The first bricks and flicks event, where "Jurassic Park" was screened while attendees built mini-Lego plants, had 34 attendees.

Adult: As of June 30, there are 176 Adult Summer Reading Challenge participants. Between the two Juneteenth events, an educational talk and documentary screening, there were 20 attendees. At the Human Rights Commission's Juneteenth Celebration, 82 people interacted with the Library's booth. The LGBTQ+ Pride book display was popular, both on Facebook and through people checking out books. 113 people interacted with the Library's booth at the Brookings Pride event. The dinosaur escape room had 118 players over the course of 3 evenings with a 50% success rate. The Mocktail Mixology class had 26 attendees and the registration had filled within the first 45 minutes of being open and 11 people were on the waiting list.

Other: New flooring has been installed in the staff breakroom. There is also a new loveseat and refrigerator. New tables and chairs should arrive soon.

Other: Ashia Gustafson was interviewed by the Brookings Register and Dakota News Now about the complaints made regarding library materials at the last few County Commission Meetings. The Library has yet to receive a formal request for reconsideration.

Other: The number of Hoopla check-outs has been lowered from 4 per month to 3 per month in hopes of reducing monthly costs.

7. New Business

7.1 Approval of Bills

The Library Board members reviewed the June 2026 bills, budgets, and expenditures. Mark Binkley moved for approval. Kathy Miller seconded. Motion carried.

7.2 Library Policy Review

Ashia Gustafson reviewed the Internet Usage Policy and Wireless Agreement Policy with the Library board. No changes were proposed.

7.3 Hoopla Funding

Ashia Gustafson reviewed the Hoopla Funding memo with the Library board. Hoopla's popularity is straining the budget and will be out of funds in roughly two months. Another \$12,000 will be needed to continue to fund Hoopla through 2026.

Kathy Miller asked if there are other options besides Hoopla for a similar service at the Library, and Ashia Gustafson stated that only Hoopla offers on-demand access to a multimedia catalog. Kathy Miller discussed the possibility of ending Hoopla when the funds expire rather than funding it through 2026. Allison Schmitt discussed funding Hoopla through 2026 and giving patrons notice about the service expiring to prepare users before discontinuing service in 2027. Kathy Miller proposed cutting checkouts down to two a month instead of three a month immediately, and putting information in the newsletter about the Hoopla checkout reduction and funding constraints. Denise Hall and Moriah Flanagan asked for statistics projecting predictions on how reducing checkouts from three to two could potentially reduce Hoopla expenses. Denise Hall also requested statistics showing costs of popular titles on Hoopla and Libby and how possibly funding access to more Libby titles could reduce wait times rather than funding Hoopla for instant access to the same titles.

Kathy Miller moved to reduce Hoopla checkouts to two a month, feature articles in the Library's newsletter regarding the changes to Hoopla and highlight Brookings as an Advantage Library on Libby as well as what that means, and for statistics showing a cost comparison of popular titles on Hoopla and Libby to be presented at the August Library Board meeting. Allison Schmitt seconded. Motion carried.

8. Items Not on the Agenda

9. Next Meeting: Thursday, August 13, at 12:00 PM in the Historical Room of the Brookings Public Library.

10. Adjournment

The Library Board meeting adjourned at 12:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ashia Gustafson
Director of Library Services