

**HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
FY 2026 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

MEETING MINUTES

February 19, 2026

Present: Dr. William B. Allen; Thomas Cusick; Errol E. Etting; Terrance Flannery; Dr. Monique H. Head; Carolyn K. Lambdin; Colonel Jonas Vogelhut, US Army, Retired, Vice Chair; Michael Woods, Treasurer; Carol Wright, Chair; Student Representative Isabella Lugo Frasqueri; Alison B. Imhoff, County Council Liaison; Mary L. Hastler, CEO; and Jennifer Button

Absent: None

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Wright, Chair, called the meeting of the Harford County Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 6:30PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Revision of Materials Selection Policy – Book and Nonbook Selection

The policy, including revisions, was posted on the library’s website in advance of this month’s meeting. There were no comments from the public regarding this policy.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Hastler recognized staff members Julia Gump, Library Associate I at Fallston Library and Stephanie Brocato, Library Associate I at Bel Air Library, present to observe the Board meeting as part of the Library Associate Training Institute program.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

All Trustees had the opportunity to review the minutes of the previous meeting in advance of this evening’s Board meeting.

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Lambdin, seconded by Mr. Flannery, and carried by unanimous vote to approve the Minutes of the January 15, 2026 Meeting as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance Committee – Mr. Woods

The committee met virtually on January 20, 2026.

FY 2026 Budget Update - Ms. Hastler provided an update for the current budget, FY 2026, and referred to the Treasurer’s report presented to the Board of Trustees at the January 15th meeting. The budget is on target and we are monitoring closely electric expenditures which are running higher than anticipated. The Library is part of the CQI Consortium through the Harford County Chamber of Commerce who negotiates prices for both gas and electric. Other areas are on target with meeting budget expectations.

Proposed FY 2027 Budget Request – Ms. Hastler met with the County Executive and provided a brief overview of the request approved by the Board for salary adjustment in FY 2027 (8%), benefits (10%) and capital projects. The County Executive indicated that the salary increase may be closer to 3%. More as we know it.

Facilities Master Plan – The Library is required by the State to have a 10-year Facilities Master Plan and our current plan is available on the library website and is nearing the end of the ten years. We will be going out to bid for a consultant to create a new Facilities Master Plan this spring.

Treasurer’s Report – The Treasurer’s Report was prepared by Ms. Cogar, CFO. Operating expenditures for the fiscal period ending January 31, 2026 were within the annual FY2026 budget. Revenues were \$14.6 million and Expenditures were \$13.2 million. Electric seemed to be running high, even with participation in the Harford County Chamber Consortium with CQI Energy. We will continue to monitor.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Etting, seconded by Dr. Head, and carried by unanimous vote to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented.

Executive Committee – Ms. Wright

The committee did not meet.

Capital Improvements Committee – Dr. Head

The committee met virtually on January 20, 2026.

Ms. Hastler provided an update on the following current facility projects and also referred to the facilities section in the CEO Report in the Board packet for January.

The Bel Air Library new security camera system has been installed. The vendor will be returning to install two outside cameras and then the job will be completely finished. The 30-year old cameras lasted a very long time and hopefully the new system will also.

The damaged wall at the Fallston Library between the bookdrop and restroom has been repaired with caulk. The County is exploring a more permanent fix.

The Jarrettsville HVAC replacement is slowly moving forward. The county has created a Purchase Order and received approval from the Board of Estimates. Start date to be determined. The branch has been without heat in certain areas of the building for two winters now.

The Norrisville HVAC system is not working and unrepairable. The county has fast-tracked installing a new system. In the meantime, the county has provided industrial size heaters to help us get through the rest of winter. Unfortunately, with the plummeting temps we are experiencing, the heaters are not able to keep up and the branch will remain closed if indoor temps are below 60.

We are waiting for an update on the electric gate install at Riverside for the back parking lot.

Human Resources Committee – Colonel Vogelhut, US Army Retired

The committee met virtually on February 17, 2026.

The committee reviewed the February 2026 draft HR Report prepared by Mr. Ross, HR Director. The report included updates on new hires, promotions, transfers, requests for leave of absence, open positions, and more. Ms. Hastler provided an update on some of the HR projects including salary studies. The next meeting of the Library Board HR Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, at 8:00 a.m. and will be held virtually.

Foundation Board – Mr. Flannery

The Foundation Board met on January 27, 2026. Mr. Flannery was happy to report that the Foundation Board of Directors is now full with twenty-one members. Mr. Flannery highlighted several upcoming events and a complete report is included in the CEO report below.

PUBLIC SERVICES REPORTS

Statistics – Ms. Hastler

Ms. Hastler reviewed highlights from the submitted Monthly Statistical Report. Fiscal Year 2026 statistics highlighted for the month of January include: Circulation 256,593; Walk-in visitors 55,324; Drive-thru visitors 4,688; Information/Reader assistance 33,184; Programs 747; Program attendance 33,184.

Programming and Events – Ms. LaPenotiere

Ms. LaPenotiere reviewed the Programming Report included in the CEO report below.

Teen Services – Ms. Lugo Frasqueri

Ms. Lugo Frasqueri reviewed the Teen Services Report included in the CEO report below, and shared positive feedback on two library programs she had recently attended.

CEO REPORT

Capital & Building Projects

Aberdeen

The Aberdeen branch has reported several safety issues regarding their sidewalks along the front of the branch – Franklin Street – as well as along the back of the building in-between the staff parking lot and the building. The County has identified both areas are the responsibility of the County to repair. The County has submitted tickets to Park & Recreation to repair the sidewalks. The County completed all of the rear sidewalk areas. They have shaved partial sidewalks surrounding the premises (85% completion). No update.

Abingdon

The removal and installation of a new roof membrane continues. This project has a completion date expected for September 30, 2025. The roofing project is complete but a few leaks have appeared that the county is addressing. Front entrance digital sign repair has been completed. The natural pond is slowly disappearing and the county brought out environmental engineers to see if something can be done. In their expert opinion, this is nature and nothing can be done to maintain a proper water level unless nature goes in a different direction. The County will continue to maintain the boardwalk and surrounding area but unfortunately the fountain will be a fond memory.

Bel Air

New security camera system has been installed and the project will be 100% complete when the exterior cameras are installed.

Fallston

Currently, there is water damage inside a wall between the restroom and book drop. The county is developing a plan to address.

Havre de Grace

A recent power outage caused unrepairable damage to the swipe badge system. We are working on replacing the swipe pads with either keys or code locks and removing the swipe pads. The staff elevator seems to be the one location in which the swipe card operated the elevator. Code locks have been installed on the assigned doors, and a security camera has been installed on the public elevator.

Jarrettsville

Portions of the geo thermal HVAC system are scheduled to be replaced. The system has been leaking for quite some time. The County requested several bids from vendors to repair the HVAC system and received one bid for \$175,000, which they felt was a bit high. A November 2024 meeting was cancelled and not rescheduled. On

December 31, 2024, the unit stopped working. The County provided heaters for the Adult workroom and staff lounge but the number of portable heaters had to be limited due to electrical demands and tripping breakers. The library is providing fleece jackets for the branch staff in appreciation of their patience as the system is repaired. The County is waiting on parts as the estimated delivery is mid- April 2025. The latest plan by the County is to remove the existing system and replace with an air feed system. The next meeting was scheduled for June 10th with the vendor to work out the details and order the equipment. Replacement was tentatively scheduled to begin in late fall 2025 but was delayed. No update.

Joppa

The branch has had several false 911 calls from the fire panel and we have been working with the contractor, Harford Alarm. The fire panel is continuing to have alerts. The County is working on the problem. The phone lines have been tested by Verizon and are working. The County has had many issues with calls over the weekend and at night. County is working on replacing the fire panel.

Norrisville

Library side (only) continues to have no heating. The HVAC is scheduled to be replaced ASAP.

Administration

The library has recommended the installation of a new electric gate in the back parking lot. Currently, library staff must manually close the gates and lock them at opening and closing. The County has added this item to their FY 2026 Capital requests.

The library is working with the county on providing square footage to enable expansion of the homeless shelter to house women and children. Two walk-throughs have taken place. The county has requested the library provide funding for the portion of the project on the library side of the building. Included in the project is the build of 4-6 offices and relocation of the meeting room. Staff and some departments will be relocated as a result. Planning continues as another meeting is scheduled for March 20th with the architect. The Design Phase should be completed by the end of May. The Construction Documents are estimated to be completed by the end of August 2025. The project should be ready for going to bid in August/September 2025. The assessment of the HVAC system has been completed and we should receive a report from the contractor in early March. The assessment indicates all the HVAC units need to be replaced. The County project manager will follow up to determine the next steps. The replacement units will be placed on the ground – no more roof top units when replaced. The County continues to make visits for assessments of the interior/exterior of the building.

Facilities Master Plan – The Library will be going out to bid for a new Facilities Master Plan. The existing plan may be found on the library website and the library is required to have a Facilities Master Plan to apply for State Capital Grants. Timeline has been adjusted for the winter 2026.

Passport Services – The US State Department requested attestation that HCPL is a government affiliated site and we submitted supporting documentation and have received full approval from the State Department to continue providing passport services.

Meetings & Presentations

January 2026

- 1/7 MLA Legislative Panel Meeting
- 1/8 2026 Economic Forecast with Dr. Anirban Basu

- 1/12 The Aegis-Matthew Hubbard Interview
- 1/12 LATI Meeting
- 1/12 EDAB Monthly Marketing Committee Meeting

- 1/13 Fox 45 Fairy Tale & Super Hero Festival
- 1/13 Harford County Government Affairs Meeting
- 1/13 State of the County
- 1/14 The Daily Record Eye on Annapolis & 2025 Legislative Session Opening Day
- 1/14 Economic Development Advisory Board Meeting
- 1/14 Harford County Education Foundation Board Meeting
- 1/15 In-studio Interview at WJZ- Fairy Tale & Super Hero Fest
- 1/15 Harford County Chamber Board Meeting
- 1/15 UWCM RUN Board Grant Reviewer Training
- 1/16 2026 Fairy Tale & Super Hero Festival
- 1/16 Interview with Jennifer Franciotti

- 1/26 IGR Taskforce Weekly Meeting
- 1/27 Harford County Government Affairs Meeting
- 1/27 Harford Consortium Entities/Bolton - January 2026/Updated Financials and Preliminary Strategy
- 1/27 HCPL Virtual Program: Introduction to AI for Genealogy
- 1/27 HCPL Foundation Executive & Board Meeting
- 1/28 CAB Mid-Year Check-in Meeting
- 1/28 HCPL Virtual Program: DNA Demystified: A Guide to Cracking Your Genetic Code
- 1/29 HC Consortium - Benefit Consultant RFP Review
- 1/29 HCPL Virtual Program: Zigzagging Through German Church Records

Programming and Events Highlights

Abingdon saw a strong and enthusiastic turnout for the *8th Annual Fairy Tale and Superhero Festival*. Customers enjoyed all aspects of the event, with the Sensory Room standing out as a favorite. Staff transformed the space into an Enchanted Forest, which was especially well received by attendees.

Due to a pending snowstorm, the Traveling Library hosted a pop-up event in Bel Air’s lobby on January 24. The event was very successful, with all available sleds checked out and more than 20 total items circulated.

Despite cold temperatures following the snowstorm, several children and their parents attended Edgewood’s *DIY Birdfeeders* program. Participants used pinecones, peanut butter, birdseed, and pipe cleaners to create hanging bird feeders to help feed birds during the winter months.

Jarrettsville hosted a *Mini-Mindfulness Garden* program where participants became Zen gardeners for the day. Crafters created beach-themed Zen gardens designed to promote relaxation and help chase away the winter doldrums.

Whiteford held a well-attended *Puzzle Swap* on Saturday, January 24, just ahead of the blizzard. Many puzzlers stopped in to find a new challenge before being snowed in for several days. This marked Whiteford’s best-attended puzzle swap to date.

Teen Services Highlights

Abingdon hosted a *Jazz Café* for teens, where participants enjoyed hot cocoa while listening to jazz in a cozy, lounge-style environment. The meeting room was transformed with bean bags, low lighting, and a virtual fireplace complete with crackling fire sounds. Teens also participated in a “This or That” activity featuring jazz legends, instruments, and albums.

Darlington’s *Teen After Hours* program reached maximum registration, with sixteen teens participating in a hands-on STEM activity. Teens worked with Robomasterminds to build and code autonomous LEGO vehicles, combining creativity, engineering, and problem-solving.

Havre de Grace hosted *Robomasterminds for Teens*, where participants explored snap circuits and assembled

their own remote-controlled cars. Teens enjoyed driving their creations and learning the fundamentals of circuitry and engineering. This program was a highly engaging STEM experience for teen participants.

Marketing & Communications

Social Media

The HCPL social media audience and interaction continue to grow.

- Facebook = 35,481 total followers
 - HCPL Main Facebook – 11,190 followers
 - Views: 211.7K
 - Interactions: 3.2K
 - Link clicks: 557
 - Visits: 7.1K
 - Branch Facebook combined – 24,291 followers
 - (All 11 branches, Choose Civility, Rolling Reader, Silver Reader)
- Instagram = 10,808 followers
 - HCPL Main Instagram – 2,558 followers
 - Views: 26.8K
 - Reach: 2.8K
 - Interactions: 623
 - Visits: 407
 - Branch Instagram combined – 8,250 followers
 - (All 11 branches, Choose Civility, Rolling Reader, Silver Reader)
- HCPL Main X (formerly Twitter) – 1,795 followers
- HCPL Main LinkedIn – 1,199 followers
- HCPL Events Meetup – 1,336 members
- HCPL Weekly Newsletter – 25,204 subscribers
 - Sent 1 eNews per week for a total of 5 in January
 - Date: 1/1/26; Open Rate: 23.53%
 - Date: 1/8/26; Open Rate: 22.99%
 - Date: 1/15/26; Open Rate: 23.87%
 - Date: 1/22/26; Open Rate: 23.43%
 - Date: 1/29/26; Open Rate: 21.68%
- Genealogy Week- rescheduled DNA Demystified program
 - Date: 1/23; Open rate: 54.62%
- Genealogy Week post program emails with links to programs
 - Intro to AI
 - Thanks for joining us. Date: 1/29; Open Rate: 45.05%
 - We missed You. Date: 1/29; Open Rate: 41.25%
 - DNA Demystified
 - Thanks for joining us. Date: 1/29; Open Rate: 51.43%
 - We missed You. Date: 1/29; Open Rate: 40.24%
 - Zigzagging Through German Church Records
 - Thanks for joining us. Date: 1/30; Open Rate: 25.49%
 - We missed You. Date: 1/30; Open Rate: 33.33%
- Top Facebook posts
 - Mug Shot! Have You Earned Your 2026 Mug?
 - Date: 1/20/26
 - Views: 17.9K; Interactions: 176
 - HCPL CEO Mary Hastler on Good Morning Maryland
 - Date: 1/13/26

- Views: 10.9K; Interactions: 61
- HCPL Has Been a Part of Harford County for 80 years!
 - Date: 1/9/26
 - Views: 8.8K; Interactions: 126
- Top Instagram Posts
 - Closed Monday, June 26, for Inclement Weather
 - Date: 1/25/26
 - Views: 7.8K; Interactions: 96
 - We're Having So Much Fun at the Fairy Tale & Superhero Festival
 - Date: 1/16/26
 - Views: 3.3K; Interactions: 72
 - Kicking off the MGCC Speaker Series with Romance Author Jennifer Vido in conversation with HCPL CEO, Mary Hastler
 - Date: 1/8/26
 - Views: 1.4K; Interactions: 32

Programs and Partnerships

Winter Reading 2026 - 80 Winters of Wonder

Numbers continue to grow as Winter Reading 2026 completed its first full month. Participants are loving the soup-sized mugs!

The first round of Bingo tote bag winners was randomly selected on January 20, with two more drawings happening: one in February, and the final when the program concludes in March. This year's tote bags are a hit!

Registration began on December 20, both online and in branches. This year's theme is a nod to the year-long celebration of HCPL's 80th Anniversary. Participants who complete their required number of books, 3 for high schoolers or 5 for adults, will earn this year's collectable mug, available while supplies last.

Bingo returns again this year. Featuring engaging activities both in HCPL and in our community, players who complete five activities in a column, row, or diagonally to get Bingo will receive a special HCPL bookmark* that may be picked up at any HCPL location. Also, winners will be entered into a drawing to win a limited-edition Winter Reading tote bag*.

A special THANK YOU to our 2026 Winter Reading Mug & Bag Sponsors: APGFCU; BGE; Harford County Public Library Foundation; Harford Mutual Insurance Group; Bel Air and Havre de Grace Friends of HCPL.

*While Winter Reading runs through March 20; prizes (mugs, bookmarks, & tote bags) are available while supplies last.

Below numbers as of 2/9/26:

- Enrollment = 3,853 (Adult 3,115+ Teen 738)
- Total Books Logged = 9,461
- Bingo Activities Completed = 6,491

Spring CheckOut Programming Publication

Featuring programs happening in March, April, and May, the Spring CheckOut has been sent to the printer, and delivery is expected later this month. Highlights include National Library Week, the conclusion of Winter Reading, 2026 Taste of Harford, Summer Reading volunteer information, and more!

Can't wait to get your hands on a physical copy? Visit HCPLonline.org to view the PDF. Start planning now for the months ahead, along with the much anticipated less frigid weather!

2026 Youth Media Award Winners Announced

- Newbery Medal - *All the Blues in the Sky* by Reneé Watson
- Caldecott Medal - *Fireworks* by Matthew Burgess; pictures by Cátia Chien

2026 Fairy Tale & Superhero Festival

- January 16
- Abingdon Library
- 779 attendees, total

January 1 New Year's Day Holiday

All HCPL locations were closed on Thursday, January 1.

Genealogy Week

- Introduction to AI for Genealogy
 - January 27
 - Virtual
 - 140 attendees, total
- DNA Demystified: A Guide to Cracking Your Genetic Code
 - January 28
 - Virtual
 - 104 attendees, total
- Zigzagging Through German Church Records
 - January 29
 - Virtual
 - 171 attendees, total

The 12th Annual Film This! Book Trailers Contest

All submissions for this year's contest must be received by February 13. Lights...Camera...ACTION! It's time for Film This!

Teens are invited to create short videos to promote their favorite books. Submissions will be reviewed by library staff and are being accepted from December 12 through February 13. Winners will be announced at a red-carpet premiere at the Abingdon Library in March. Additional details and contest guidelines are available at HCPLonline.org.

The marketing team created an engaging campaign, geared towards teens, that features ads in *CheckOut*, *eNews*, social media, and more.

Community Partnership – February Food Drive

The marketing team coordinated a system wide food drive to help provide weekend meal bags to students who face food insecurity. The Food Drive will take place from February 1-28 at all HCPL locations.

Donations requested include fruit & pudding cups, granola bars, Capri Sun Juice pouches, gummy fruit snacks, and microwaveable Chef Boyardee pasta. This Food Drive is in partnership with The HOPE Center of Maryland, Beyond Blessings, and Harford County Government.

HCPL 80th Anniversary

Commemoration of HCPL's 80th Anniversary continues through June 2026. The HCPL special logo is incorporated into all collateral marketing pieces, all digital footprints, as well as on all promotional swag. A variety of fun events and engaging programs are taking place in branches and system wide.

- Additional copies of the 80th Anniversary bookmark have been printed and distributed.
- The 2026 Winter Reading theme is *80 Winters of Wonder* so look for many additional programs and events planned in celebration of the 80th Anniversary
- Renowned NYC Jazz group, the Daniel Bennett Group will be coming to Harford County again for a concert, focusing on sounds from the 1940's. The event will take place on Wednesday, April 22 at Fiore Winery & Distillery. Registration is recommended and is now open at <https://programs.hcplonline.org/event/15769452>.
- Plans are also underway for a spring Whisper & Quill Silent Book Club.

Coordination of Cultural Arts Board HarfordTV Show

The Marketing & Communications Director coordinated local art organizations for their involvement in the Cultural Arts Board TV show, *Kaleidoscope*, which is produced bi-monthly by HarfordTV. The process involves a blend of outreach, relationship-building, and logistical planning with organizations and individuals whose work aligns with the show's mission of celebrating creativity and diversity. This includes personalized communication to introduce the opportunity, clarify expectations, and highlight the benefits of appearing on *Kaleidoscope*. Once interest is confirmed, Ms. Greenly Smith manages scheduling, gathers promotional materials, and ensures technical requirements are met, creating a seamless experience for both the artists and the production team. The most recent episode taped on January 9, and work has already begun for the March 25 and May 12 episodes.

Romance Author Fest

- Program details will be shared at the March Board meeting
- February 7
- Abingdon Library

UPCOMING – Meet the Author: Jennifer Vido

- Thursday, February 26
- 6:00-7:30 pm
- Abingdon Library
- Registration suggested (<https://programs.hcplonline.org/event/14936716>)

UPCOMING – 5th Annual Women's Summit

Registration is required. Includes a light breakfast, box lunch, and a copy of this year's featured book, *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. This exciting event features Catie Griggs, Baltimore Orioles President of Operations, and Erin Hodge-Williams, psychotherapist, and founder of Time for Women.

- Tuesday, March 3
- 9:00 am-noon
- Abingdon Library
- Tickets are \$50 and may be purchased through Eventbrite using the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/harford-county-public-library-5th-annual-womens-summit-tickets-1981322632329>

Marketing Request Forms (MRFs) Completed in January

Promotional materials for HCPL programs and events are created, proofed, and produced by the team. The group completed more than 101 Marketing Request Forms (MRFs/jobs) in January. These jobs involve designs for several different mediums, everything from printed flyers or posters to digital files, such as graphics for the various social media platforms, flatscreens, and webslides. These MRFs include materials and promotions needed for system-wide events coordinated by the marketing team as well as branch programs, and Foundation events/initiatives.

Additional Views for Previously Reported Programs, Events, and Partnerships

- Book Bites, 1-minute videos of “bite-size” book recommendations from HCPL
 - 225 views total – January for all age groups

Recent Media Hits and Press Mentions

Press Releases Distributed

- Celebrate the Month of Love at HCPL’s 3rd Annual Romance Author Fest – January 27
- HCPL Hosts Genealogy Week Programs – January 13
- HCPL Announces Featured Programs in January – January 7
- HCPL Holds 8th Annual Fairy Tale & Superhero Festival – January 1

Television

- “Fairy Tale & Superhero Festival” – *WBAL TV11* – January 16 – *Fox45 News* – January 13

Print

- “New Field of Leaders at Maryland State Fair – Mary Amoss”
 - January 30
 - *The Delmarva Farmer* (online)
- “3rd Annual Romance Author Fest”
 - January 29
 - *I95 Business* (online)
 - January 27
 - *The Patch – Aberdeen, Bel Air, Fallston, Havre de Grace*
 - *Harford County Chamber of Commerce*
 - *Harford County Living*
- “Snowstorm Fallout: Birdland Caravan Cancelled”
 - January 22
 - *The Baltimore Sun* (online)
- “Fairy Tale & Superhero Festival”
 - January 16
 - *DVIDS*
 - *Bel Air Brief*
 - *WBAL TV11*
 - January 13
 - *Fox45 News*
 - January 6
 - *Harford County Living*
 - January 5
 - *The Patch – Aberdeen, Bel Air, Fallston, Havre de Grace*
 - *I95 Business* (online)
 - *Harford County Chamber of Commerce*
 - *Bel Air News & Views*
- “Genealogy Week – January 2026”
 - January 13
 - *The Patch – Aberdeen, Bel Air, Fallston, Havre de Grace*
 - *Harford County Chamber of Commerce*
- “January 2026 Programs”
 - January 9
 - *Bel Air News & Views*
 - January 7
 - *The Patch – Aberdeen, Bel Air, Fallston, Havre de Grace*
 - *I95 Business* (online)

- *Harford County Chamber of Commerce*
- *Harford County Living*
- “New Foundation Board Members”
 - January 5
 - *Bel Air News & Views*

Foundation

The Harford County Public Library Foundation met on January 27th at 6:30 a.m. via Zoom. The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 24th at 6:30 p.m. at the Abingdon Library.

Economic Update by Anirban Basu – January 8th at 8 am.

Economic Update with Anirban Basu was held on January 8 at 8 am and was very well attended. The event drew 86 participants and generated \$10,500 in sponsorships and ticket sales, with net proceeds of \$3,630. The audience was highly engaged, with a lively discussion and numerous thoughtful questions throughout the program. Mr. Basu delivered an outstanding presentation, offering timely insights and analysis that were both informative and compelling.

Annual Giving

The 2026 Annual Giving Campaign launched on November 19th. To date, the campaign has raised \$26,280, and net \$19,780.

Summer Reading Program

The Summer Reading Program Campaign has raised \$36,500.

Build the Future Over Breakfast – Panel Discussion #2

The Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO) has requested HCPL’s continued partnership to host a second business breakfast this winter. This event will convene leaders from the defense, education, and economic development sectors for a strategic discussion on data infrastructure. The event is scheduled for Thursday, February 26th at 8:00 a.m. 39 individuals have registered.

All Friends Meeting – February 26, 2026

The annual get-together of Friends Groups will be convened on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 3 pm at the Abingdon Library.

Inclusive Egg Hunt

Building on the success of the Wheelchair Costume Workshop, HCPL is partnering with Coppermine Bel Air Athletic Club, defense contractors, dedicated volunteers, and the Harford County Department of Community Services to host an Inclusive Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at Coppermine Bel Air Athletic Club.

Inspired by the Trunk or Treat model, the event will feature a festive, accessible path of spring-themed stations offering creative egg delivery systems, treats, and surprises designed for children of all abilities. Community organizations, local STEM clubs, the Boys and Girls Club, and high school physics classes have been invited to participate, encouraging innovation, collaboration, and community engagement. To date, 10 groups have already registered, reflecting strong early interest and support for this inclusive initiative.

Taste of Harford

Save the Date – the 2026 Taste of Harford—will be held on Sunday, May 17th from 1:00–4:00 PM at Vignon Manor Farm. Twenty-three restaurants have confirmed their partnership, as well as the Harford County Farm Bureau and the Harford County Department of Economic Development, Ag division. In addition, four vendors have confirmed their participation in the accompanying Farmers Market.

Side Hustle Workshop

The Side Hustle Workshop will be held June 4th from 2pm to 4pm at the Bel Air Library. The program will engage approximately 150 participants, both in person and via a recorded session, focusing on the legal, financial, and insurance considerations of independent and gig-based work. In addition, an attorney/certified public accountant and insurance broker will provide guidance regarding considerations for 1099 employees.

Wheelchair Costume Workshop – Save the Date, Friday, October 2nd, and Saturday, October 3rd.

2026 Annual Gala – A Winter’s Ball, Revolution in the Stacks,

Planning is underway for the 22nd Annual Library Gala scheduled for Saturday, November 7, 2026. Key partners secured so far include the Bachelor Boys Band, Pairings Bistro, Vagabond, The Local, Full Circle Boards, and Matsuri Sushi.

Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2025

Current Assets

ASSETS

Checking/Savings	\$ 1,673,820.37
Accounts Receivable/Prepaid Other	\$ 49,950.00
Other Current Assets (Prepaid)	\$ 6,290.97
Total Current Assets	\$ 1,730,061.34

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Accounts Payable	\$ 1,450.00
Other Current Liabilities	\$ 1,858.61
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 3,308.61

Equity

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$ 1,306,926.65
Board Designated Net Assets	\$ 648.42
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 281,519.96
Net Income	\$ 137,657.70
Total Equity	\$ 1,726,752.73

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$ 1,730,061.34

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the Library and the Foundation. We deeply appreciate the continued support of the HCPL Board of Trustees.

Cultural Arts Board

HCCAB last met on February 2, 2026.

Financials

- HCCAB is still waiting for the second distribution of Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) funding, which should total \$48,657.25, or 25% of our award. The November quarterly report was submitted on November 14, 2025, and the funds will be released as soon as MSAC formally “accepts” the report. The total amount of MSAC funding for FY2026 is \$194,629.
- In February, the Board reviewed current financials and budget projections for the remainder of FY26. As of 2/2/26, HCCAB has expended \$136,263, with an additional \$50,577.50 obligated for approved programs, grants, and sponsorships. We remain on track to spend down the grant fully by June 30, 2026, as required by our terms and conditions.
- HCCAB currently has \$170,152 in carryover funds, and at the February meeting, board members reviewed budget suggestions for the use of these funds. The board plans to finalize a draft budget at the March meeting, which will then go for review by HCPL leadership. One priority for these funds is to

increase awareness of and ongoing engagement with HCCAB throughout the county, and board members plan to prioritize budget categories to help achieve that goal.

FY2026 Grants and Sponsorships

- Board members reviewed 6 applications for Arts in Education grants requesting \$11,301.10 in funding at the February meeting.
 - HCCAB approved 5 applications with no conditions, and 1 application with conditions for a total of \$8,125.50.
 - The application that was conditionally approved requires the applicant to submit information (either CV/resume or website link) about an artist they plan to use for programming prior to processing the award.
- The Board reviewed 2 sponsorship requests.
 - The first request was submitted by the Maryland Center for Visual and Performing Arts and the Harford County Education Foundation requesting \$5,000 to support *Celebration of the Arts: Brushstrokes and Bright Futures*. The board approved a sponsorship amount of \$500.
 - The second request was submitted by the Maryland Center for the Visual and Performing Arts and the Calliope Group requesting \$1,000 to support the first annual *Calliope Jubilee*. The board requested that the organizations provide additional information about the event and will vote via email in one week on the request.
- The board again discussed the need for internal standards and set guidance for reviewing and approving sponsorship requests. The board will set guidance as an agenda item under “Old Business” for the March 2026 meeting.

Administrative Updates

- The FY27 MSAC County Arts Development On-Year application was submitted by Meg McReynolds, Cultural Arts & Community Outreach Coordinator, on January 30, 2026. We expect to be notified of the status of our FY27 award in July 2026.
- In addition to the annual MSAC application, HCCAB also completed a virtual mid-year check-in, attended by David Mitchell (MSAC), Mary Hastler, Amber Shrodes, and Meg McReynolds, and submitted a quarterly performance report on January 30, 2026, as part of the revised reporting requirements following HCCAB’s leadership transition.
- Ms. McReynolds attended 2 professional development webinars hosted by MSAC on Equitable Grantmaking covering the grant lifecycle design and the grant review process.

Programs and Events

- The exhibit “Between the Lines,” hosted in partnership with the Havre de Grace Arts Collective, closed on January 4, 2026. We are waiting for final attendance numbers from Bel Air. The door counter for the room has a technical issue and Ryan Rickels is looking into it.
- HCCAB is moving forward with the Art of Healing exhibition, which is planned in partnership with HCCAB, HCPL, Ashley Addiction Centers, and the Harford Artists Association. The exhibit will open the week of June 8 at Bel Air, and an evening reception is set for Friday, June 12. Please save the date! The exhibit will be a community art show and will not be juried. Ms. McReynolds is working on the Call for Art and Submission Form with the Harford Artists Association and will share that information as soon as it’s finalized.
- Kaleidoscope’s January episode is now [available for streaming](#). The guests included Brad Cox from LIVE at Harford Community College and Sheldon Bair, director of the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra and a Harford Living Treasure. The on-site segment was filmed at Unlimited Art, the studio of Havre de Grace artist Shawn Forton. The next episode will be filmed in late March.
- Maryland Arts Day is coming up on February 12. Thanks to the Library’s support, HCCAB will have a reserved room for meetings with the Harford delegation. Maryland Arts Day is an advocacy event focused on sharing the impact of the state funding for the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC). There was good budget news for MSAC and for the county arts agencies at the beginning of the legislative session. The Governor’s proposed budget allocates \$31.8 million to MSAC, with a suggested \$600,000 increase in funding to the county arts agencies. Maryland Citizens for the Arts will keep us updated

during the legislative session, but they noted that there may be last-minute changes to the proposed budget given the size of the state budget deficit.

ACTION ITEMS

Personnel Changes

The following human resources changes were submitted for review and confirmation:

NEW HIRES:

Elsie Harmon, Library Assistant II – Circulation, Joppa Branch, 15 hours per week. Effective Date: February 17, 2026.

Darya Makhomenka, Library Assistant II – Circulation, Jarrettsville Branch, 15 hours per week. Effective Date: February 17, 2026.

Sharon McKee, Library Assistant II – Circulation, Jarrettsville Branch, 15 hours per week. Effective Date: February 17, 2026.

Sara Phillips, Library Assistant II – Circulation, Joppa Branch, 15 hours per week. Effective Date: February 17, 2026.

PROMOTIONS:

Catrell Jackson, Library Assistant II, Havre de Grace, 37.5 hours per week has been promoted to Library Associate I Teen Service, Havre de Grace, 37.5 hours per week. Effective Date: February 1, 2026.

OTHER CHANGES:

Miranda Spivey, Library Associate II Adult Services, Aberdeen Branch, 20 hours per week has been awarded the position Library Associate II Teen Services, Whiteford Branch, 37.5 hours per week. Effective Date: February 01, 2026.

RETIREMENTS:

Kristen DeLambo, Library Associate II - Children, 30 hours per week, Whiteford Branch with 37 years of service Effective Date: June 1, 2026.

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS:

Frank DiBeneditto, Senior Circulation Manager, Abingdon Branch, 37.5 hours per week. Effective March 6, 2026.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS:

None

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS:

An employee requested FMLA for own serious condition effective February 1, 2026, to May 2, 2026.

OPEN POSITIONS:

Aberdeen Branch

- **Library Associate I/II Adult Services**, Aberdeen Branch, 20 hours per week. Posted internally.

Abingdon Branch

- **Custodian**, Abingdon Branch, 28 hours per week. Posted externally/internally.

Administrative Office

- **Administrative Assistant**, Administrative Office, 37.5 hours per week. (1 Position) On hold.
- **Human Resources Assistant**, Administrative Office, 37.5 hours per week. Posted Internally/externally.
- **Chief Operating Officer**, Administrative Office, 37.5 hours per week. Effective Date: December 1, 2024. On Hold.
- **Custodian**, Facilities & Operations Department, Administrative Office, 37.5 hours per week. (2 positions). On Hold.
- **Custodian**, Administrative Office, 19 hours per week. Filled by contractor.
- **Graphic Designer**, Administrative Office, 37.5 hours per week. Posted externally.

Bel Air Branch

- **Library Assistant II – Circulation**, Bel Air Branch, 15 hours per week. (2 Positions) Posted externally/internally.
- **Library Assistant II – Circulation**, Bel Air Branch, 28 hours per week. This position was previously 37.5 hours per week – gave 9.5 hours to the position of Early Literacy Specialist – Opening the Gift Coordinator to make it full-time. On hold.

Darlington Branch

None

Edgewood

- **Library Associate I/II**, Edgewood Branch, 20 hours per week. On hold.

Fallston Branch

- **Library Assistant II – Circulation**, Fallston Branch, 15 hours per week. Posted externally/internally. Interviews to be held February 24, 2026.

Havre de Grace Branch

- **Library Assistant II- Circulation**, Havre de Grace, 37.5 hours per week. Posted internally.

Jarrettsville Branch

None

Joppa Branch

- **Circulation Manager**, Joppa Branch, 37.5 hours per week. Posted externally/internally. Interviews held February 11, 2026.

Norrisville Branch

None

Whiteford Branch

-**Library Assistant II- Circulation**, Whiteford Branch, 15 hours per week. Posted internally/externally. Hiring Process.

FUTURE VACANCY DUE TO RETIREMENTS:

- **Library Assistant II – Circulation**, Fallston Branch, 37.5 hours per week. Effective Date: March 1, 2026. Posted internally.

POSITION RECLASSIFIED:

None

HCPL Library Jobs:

<https://www.paycomonline.net/v4/ats/web.php/jobs?clientkey=A80FE008691EC4F03A189014B9C1100A>

The following are examples of some sites that maybe used to recruit for open positions: LinkedIn, Indeed, American Library Association (ALA), Marylib listserv, CareerBuilder, Monster.com, and Facebook.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Ms. Lambdin, and approved by unanimous vote to approve the Personnel Report.

Materials Selection Policy – Book and Nonbook Selection

All Trustees had the opportunity to review policy revisions in advance of this evening’s Board meeting.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Colonel Vogelhut, US Army Retired, and approved by unanimous vote to approve the Materials Selection Policy – Book and Nonbook Selection.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

There was no business from the Chair.

BUSINESS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

In recognition of Black History Month, Ms. Lugo Frasqueri attended the Harford County Council meeting on February 17, 2026, where she was honored as a member of the Aberdeen High School Black Student Union, and student member of the NAACP Harford County branch. The groups were honored with a proclamation from the Council, celebrating the achievements, history, and contributions of the Black community.

Ms. Lugo Frasqueri encouraged Trustees to wear purple at the April Board of Trustees meeting in recognition of the Month of the Military Child.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Wright cited the provision in the Maryland Open Meetings Act allowing for closed sessions:

Maryland Open Meetings Act § 3-305

(b) In general – Subject to subsection (d) of this section, a public body may meet in closed session or adjourn an open session to a closed session only to:

(1) discuss:

(I) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of an appointee, employee, or official over whom it has jurisdiction; or

(ii) any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals;

Ms. Wright requested the Board retire to review the FY2026 CEO Work Plan.

MOTION: Motion by Dr. Head, seconded by Ms. Lambdin, and approved by unanimous vote to approve the closing of the Public Meeting and go into a closed Executive Session.

The public meeting was closed at 7:05PM and the Executive Session began at 7:10PM.

Present during the Executive Session were: Dr. Allen, Mr. Cusick, Mr. Etting, Mr. Flannery, Dr. Head, Ms. Lambdin, Colonel Vogelhut, Mr. Woods, Ms. Wright, Ms. Hastler, and Ms. Button.

Ms. Hastler shared status updates on the CEO FY2026 Work Plan.

MOTION: Motion by Dr. Allen, seconded by Dr. Head, and approved by unanimous vote to approve the closing of the Executive Session and adjourn the Public Meeting.

The Executive Session was closed at 7:24PM and the Public Meeting resumed at 7:24PM for the sole purpose of adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING

MOTION: Motion by Colonel Vogelhut, US Army Retired, seconded by Ms. Lambdin, and approved by unanimous vote to adjourn the Public Meeting.