



RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL WORKING SESSION

January 28, 2026

Main Library
101 E. Franklin Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
Phone: 804.646.2547

10:30 a.m.



Richmond Public Library
101 E. Franklin Street
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 646-4256 / fax: (804) 646-7685



Library Board of Trustees Special Working Session
Wednesday, January 28, 2026
10:30 a.m.

A G E N D A

Call to order: 10:30 a.m. Ms. Peterson

Agenda Ms. Peterson

Consent Agenda: Ms. Peterson

- Approval of Minutes-January 5, 2026, Facilities Committee Meeting

Discussion:

- Progress related to expansion of three Branches (Belmont, East End, and Westover Hills)
- Potential Development Opportunities for South of the River

**Library Board of Trustees Special Working Session
Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT**
January 5, 2026**

PRESENT: Chair Christine Peterson, Brent Graves, Cynthia Hinds, Janet Woody, William Yates

STAFF: Library Director Scott Firestine, Library Deputy Director Clay Dishon

The Richmond Public Library (RPL) Library Board of Trustees (LBOT) Facilities Committee Working Session was called to order by Chair Christine Peterson at 5:30 p.m. at the Main Library located at 101 E. Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. The working session was posted, and the public could attend in person.

The RPL Library Board of Trustees convened the Facilities Committee for a working session to review ongoing efforts regarding the expansion and improvement of the Richmond Public Library system.

Facilities Review and Expansion Updates:

The Committee reviewed current progress and architectural considerations for the expansion of the Belmont Branch, East End Branch, and Westover Hills Branch Libraries.

Trustees engaged in a collaborative Q&A session, offering insights on design efficiency and community needs for these specific locations.

New Southside Library Development:

A significant portion of the session was dedicated to exploring opportunities for a new Library Branch south of the James River. Key discussion points included:

- Identifying potential geographical gaps in service.
- Evaluating site acquisition opportunities.
- Assessing the long-term impact on the Southside community.

Action Items and Next Steps:

Following the discussion on the Southside expansion, the LBOT reached a consensus on the following immediate actions:

- **Second Working Session:** A follow-up meeting will be scheduled specifically to focus on the Southside project.
- **Outreach Strategy:** The Committee will begin generating a formal community engagement and outreach plan.
- **Research Initiatives:** The LBOT will initiate targeted research efforts to support site selection and project feasibility.

There being no further discussions, the working session was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

The next Working Session of the Facilities Committee will be held on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at the Main Library located at 101 E. Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia, 23219, starting at 10:30 a.m.

Approved: _____
Christine Peterson, Chair

*Recorder: Scott R. Firestine
Library Director*