

HENNEPIN COUNTY

LIBRARY BOARD




The public is welcome at all library board meetings.

April 16, 2025, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Ridgedale Library | Meeting Room 174 | 12601 Ridgedale Drive | Minnetonka, MN 55305

Library Board Agenda

POLICY COMMITTEE

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Attendance
-  3. Approval of Agenda*
-  4. Approval of February 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes*
5. Internet Public Use Policy
-  6. Adjourn*

 *Denotes board action item

Library Board

Jessica Kraft, President | Lynn Stetler, Vice President | Amal Karim, Secretary | Gordy Aune, Jr. | Jane Brissett | Erin Brudvik | Erin Carney | Kimberly Connolly | Michael Hogan | Randy Klauk | Ashley Krohn

Library Director
Scott Duimstra



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Hennepin County Library Board Policy Committee

Meeting Minutes

The Hennepin County Library Board Policy Committee met on February 12, 2025, at Ridgedale Library, Room 174, 12601 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka.

Attendees

Committee Members Present: Michael Hogan (Chair), Gordy Aune, Jr., Jane Brissett, Randy Klauk, Ashley Krohn

Library Board Members Present: None

Hennepin County Staff: Scott Duimstra, Lillian Albrecht, Tonya Depriest, Char Kimber, Kelli Koob

Call to Order

Chair Hogan called the Hennepin County Library Board Policy Committee Meeting of February 12, to order at 5:31 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

Attendance of Library Board Members

Library Board Clerk Lillian Albrecht took the roll call. The Board met the quorum with 5 committee members present.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Gordy Aune, Jr.

Second: Ashley Krohn

Motion passed.

Approval of October 23, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Motion: Jane Brissett

Second: Gordy Aune, Jr.

Motion passed.

Policy Review Policy

Attendees discussed and endorsed the policy as-is with updated review dates. A motion was made to bring the policy to the full Board for review on March 19.

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Library Director

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Motion: Gordy Aune, Jr.
Second: Ashley Krohn
Motion passed.

Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m.
Motion: Ashley Krohn
Second: Randy Klauk
Motion passed.

Amal Karim, Secretary

HENNEPIN COUNTY

LIBRARY

Library Board Policy Committee Internet Public Use Policy April 16, 2025

Background:

This policy guides staff in providing safe and equitable access to public internet, either through the use of public computers, or via WiFi. This policy provides information for patrons on the scope of access they have, and their responsibilities for use.

Hennepin County Library uses filtering software when patrons use our equipment or WiFi to access the internet. It is important to note that The American Library Association (ALA) believes that access to the internet should not be filtered. They do acknowledge that local libraries and schools may have needs that lead them to implement filtering. The ALA recommends implementing policies and procedures that mitigate the negative effects of filtering. For more information, visit the ALA site on Filters and Filtering: <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/filtering>.

The reasons HCL filters the internet include safety and security, and a Minneapolis Public Library lawsuit settled in 2003. This lawsuit stated that MPL was a “hostile workplace” because staff were repeatedly exposed to pornography viewed by patrons on public computers. You can read more about this settlement in the attached article from *American Libraries*, September 2003.

This policy has several associated policies and laws; some of the language in the policy is included because of this. This policy was last reviewed 5/2021.

Why This is Important:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure safe and equitable access to the internet. As a resource that is accessed daily, this policy provides guidance for staff as they support patron’s use of the internet.

Internet and public WiFi use is a significant service provided by HCL. Between 2019 and 2024 there was a 232% increase in the number of annual public WiFi sessions. In 2019 there were 2.8 million WiFi sessions, and in 2024 there were 9.3 million. Despite an overall decrease in public computer

Library Administration

12601 Ridgedale Drive | Minnetonka, MN 55305
612-543-8500 | hclib.org



use, it's still a heavily and regularly used resource. In 2024 just under 67,000 public PC sessions were logged.

Public access to the Internet is integral to Hennepin County Library's mission to inspire, facilitate, and celebrate lifelong learning.

Known Changes:

- Update Mission
- Update review date

Discussion:

- After reading the Internet Public Use Policy, what stands out to you? What are your initial thoughts?
- What questions do you have about the policy?
- Is anything missing from this policy?
- What implications does this policy have?
- What changes may be required to this policy?

What Next:

- What further steps should be taken?
 - More information from staff?
 - Questions that require answers?
 - Ready for decision?

Internet Public Use Policy

Hennepin County Library Board Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to affirm the library's role in providing public access to the Internet and to clarify patron responsibilities associated with Internet use in the library.

Internet use in the library means using the library's network to access the Internet either on library workstations or through a wireless connection.

Principles

Public access to the Internet is integral to Hennepin County Library's mission to **inspire, facilitate, and celebrate lifelong learning** ~~nourish minds, transform lives, and build community together.~~

Public access to the Internet allows patrons to:

- Access online resources and services
- Communicate and engage with others
- Create content
- Complete transactions with public, nonprofit, and private entities

Hennepin County Library provides public access to the Internet in accordance with state and federal laws and the policies of Hennepin County and the Hennepin County Library Board. Collection, retention, handing and disclosing of patron data is covered under the [Patron Data Privacy Policy](#).

Scope of Access

Public access to the Internet is available at all library locations via library workstations and wireless access. Software is used to filter out proxy sites, and sites that pose a security risk to the network. It is also used to filter out obscene materials as defined by Minnesota Statute 617.241. Filtering is imperfect and may restrict access to legitimate research sites. Also, filtering does not guarantee that all proxy sites, obscene materials, and sites that pose security risks will be blocked. Patrons can request that a website be reviewed to be blocked or unblocked by first speaking to a staff person.

Library workstations support a variety of software programs that expand a workstation's capabilities and increase a patron's ability to utilize the Internet. The library may establish time limitations to ensure fair and equitable access to library workstations.

The Hennepin County Library Board, Hennepin County, and its employees assume no responsibility for damages of any type arising from patron use of the Internet through the library's network.

Patron Responsibilities:

Patrons acknowledge that the content on the Internet is not managed or governed by any entity and therefore they may encounter materials that are inaccurate or that they consider offensive.

Patrons recognize that their use of the Internet is conducted in a public place shared by many. Patrons are subject to the [Patron Use of Library Spaces Policy](#).

Patrons acknowledge that the library cannot protect the privacy of data that is transmitted to third parties via the Internet.

Patrons shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws including but not limited to:

- Library patrons may not use the library's Internet access to view, print, distribute, display, send or receive images, or graphics of material that violates laws relating to child pornography
- Library patrons may not knowingly exhibit or display any material which is harmful to minors in its content or material that is obscene in any place of public accommodation where minors are or may be present and where minors are able to view the material
- Library patrons must adhere to all copyright laws and may not copy or distribute materials (e.g. with the use of file sharing software) without the permission of the owner. Patrons who do so may be subject to criminal and civil liability.

Failure to follow this policy may result in eviction from the library, and may include a trespass order or arrest. Violation of state and federal laws will be referred to the proper authorities for legal action.

Parent and Guardian Responsibility

Parents and guardians are responsible for monitoring Internet access for their children who are minors. Any additional restrictions placed on a child's access to the Internet on the library's network is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian.

Associated Policies and Laws

- Hennepin County Library Board. [Patron Use of Library Spaces](#)
- Hennepin County Library Board. [Freedom to Read](#)
- Hennepin County Library Board. [Freedom to View](#)
- Hennepin County Library Board. [Library Bill of Rights](#)
- Hennepin County Library Board. [Patron Data Privacy](#)
- Minnesota Statute 134.50. [Internet Access; Libraries](#)
- Minnesota Statute 617.293. [Harmful materials](#)
- United States. [Children's Internet Protection Act](#)
- Minnesota Statute 617.241. [Obscene Materials and Performances; Distribution and Exhibition Prohibited; Penalty.](#)

Process

This policy is reviewed by the Library Director (or designee), the library's legal counsel and the Library Board Policy Committee at least every four years. The Committee reviews and revises as necessary, endorses and advances to the full Library Board for approval.

Policy History

Next Review ~~Date:~~ 2029 3/2025

Date ~~Reviewed~~ ~~Approved:~~ 5/2021 [Insert date Board approves]

QUICK TAKES

Trash Mistaken for Garbage

A custodian was just doing his job when he tossed out an exhibit at the Boulder (Colo.) Public Library.

Featuring garbage found by University of Colorado art students, "My Favorite Place to Walk in Boulder: Or, Found Trash Objects" was intended as a commentary on ecology, the *Boulder Daily Camera* reported June 20.

"This is a slightly different kind of art," said Director of Cultural Programs Karen Ripley, who rescued the items from the trash. "It's not meant to be beautiful."

Even Thieves Like Harry

If cash isn't available, a burglar will settle for the latest Harry Potter—or so it seemed when two copies of *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* disappeared in a June 23 break-in at the Canonsburg (Pa.) Public Library.

Librarian Lyn Crouse said in the June 27 *Washington (Pa.) Observer-Reporter* that she had changed the library's money storage procedures a month earlier when \$300 in petty cash was stolen in a similar burglary.

The CIA's Secret Santa

Details of a facetious memo warning of a terror attack on Santa Claus—classified for decades because it was included in a real 1974 report on terrorism—are brought to light in "Dubious Secrets," an electronic book from the National Security Archive published May 21.

The CIA reluctantly declassified a portion of the report in 1999, but withheld the rest—including the joke—on the grounds it was still too sensitive. However, a version sent to the Ford Presidential Library in 1997 revealed the joke. Apparently, the NSA concludes, at least one CIA staffer believed "it would do no harm to disclose that an anonymous Agency intelligence officer had a sense of humor."

egy "falls short of an official 'downgrading' of the act to a model law" and warned that other UCITA proponents, such as software companies, "are not at all bound by this decision and could still promote the act."

Minneapolis 12 Settle Hostile-Workplace Suit

A dozen Minneapolis Public Library workers have settled their hostile-workplace lawsuit against the library (*AL*, May, p. 23) for \$435,000 and an agreement by library officials to consider greater restrictions on patron access to sexually explicit online content.

"We believe the financial settlement in this case sends a strong message to libraries around the country that they must take the concerns of their employees seriously," the librarians said in a joint statement August 15.

While the library didn't admit any wrongdoing, Trustee Laurie Savran said in the August 16 *Minneapolis Star Tribune* that she had apologized to the plaintiffs "that this happened to them . . . and that we didn't address their concerns more expeditiously." Possible changes include increased penalties for Internet-use violations and adoption of a fee-based system to curb gratuitous printing of potentially offensive materials from the Internet.

Newly hired Director Kit Hadley's commitment to resolve the issue was one factor that led to the settlement, said Bob Halagan, the librarians' lawyer. "I think their respect for her made it easier for them to agree to the terms of the agreement," he said.

Indianapolis Councilor Says Board Should Quit

Nearly four months after the board of the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library fired Chief Executive Officer Ed Szynaka (*AL*, Aug., p. 28-29), a city-county councilor has called for the resignations of six of the seven board members. The lone exception was Sarah Taylor, who only joined the board in July. "It's such a dysfunctional board," Council President Phil

Borst said in the August 15 *Indianapolis Star*. "They just don't work together. For the benefit of the library system, I think a new board and new director are the way to go."

Borst's comments came after a June 19 internal report, prepared by library attorney Gene R. Leeuw, was made public, alleging conflicts of interest on the board and poor oversight of Szynaka's use of library funds for lobbying state and local officials. The report prompted the Indiana Board of Accounts to launch an inquiry into whether \$230,000 in lobbying contracts was properly approved.

In his first interview after being fired April 17, Szynaka angrily denied in the August 13 *Star* that board members were uninformed about contracts with three law firms hired in 2002 to lobby officials in an effort to improve or repair Szynaka's image in the community. "If anyone says anything different," he asserted, "they are woefully misrepresenting the circumstances."

The report also pointed to possible conflicts of interest by board member D. Mark Bowell, who is employed by the public-relations company whose client was awarded a recent \$102.7-million library reconstruction project, and board member Gary J. Meyer, who has ties to one of the law firms involved with the library's lobbying efforts. However, board spokeswoman Myra Borshoff told the *Star* that the board's attorney considered the allegations unsubstantiated.

No board members heeded the call for resignation. "Mr. Borst's solution is far too simplistic," said board member Mary Lou Rothe.

Private Group Loses Library Reins

After 146 years of library management in Springfield, Massachusetts, by the private Springfield Library and Museums Association, the city council voted unanimously June 30 to take direct control of the system's operations. The action, which became effective the next day, was the culmination of a controversy that began in February when the SLMA board, cit-

