

THE TALBOT COUNTY FREE LIBRARY
100 W. Dover St.
Easton, MD 21601
Minutes of the Board Meeting
December 4, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Susan Sherman at 5:00 pm. Meeting held at the Easton Library.

Attendees: Susan Sherman, Terry Moore, Ron Engle, Andrew Thaler, Charles Yonkers, Becky Amaral, Sue Regier, Ron Engle, Robert Rankin, Town of Easton Liaison, Pete Leshner, Talbot County Council Liaison, Director, Dana Newman, Scotti Oliver, Assistant Director, Emma Poole, Communications Manager, Represented the TCFL.

Excused: Sandy Boyd, Alexis Roiter, Robert Forloney and Mary Pellicano

Guests: Bess Langbein, Isabella Ryan and Sarah Ramsey from Due East Partners

Action Items:

- **Board members voted on and approved the November 4, 2025 minutes.**
- **Board members voted on and accepted the Treasurer's Report: Income and Expense Statement & Statement of Activities report.**
- **Board members voted on and approved the naming opportunity for Shauna Beulah in honor of her service: Shauna Beulah Art Gallery**
- **Board members voted on and approved the library holidays and closings for 2026.**
- **Board members voted on and approved Steve Kullman to serve on the Foundation board.**
- **A note for the record: An email was sent out by Dana to the board on November 19, 2025 asking the board to approve the 2025 audit. All were in favor with none opposed. The audit was approved.**

Review of the November 4, 2025, Minutes: Susan Sherman asked the board if there were any changes or corrections. Hearing none, asked for a motion to approve with Charlie Yonkers moving and Sue Regier seconding. All were in favor with none opposed. The motion carried.

Old Business: moved Old Business to after New Business

New Business:

Strategic Planning Presentation with Due East Partners

Bess Langbein introduced her team and provided a handout of the power point presentation. This document is attached to the minutes. She highlighted some important points:

- Due East Partners is pleased to be able to work with TCFL
- We are relationship based where we emphasize the co-creative process.
- We work to build a network and use a lot of data in our research.
- Our vision is to build plans based on an organizations strengths and we will consider all community partners when working with TCFL.

- We will be scheduling a strategic planning committee meeting made up of library staff, Foundation board members and community members.

Holidays and Closings for 2026

Dana reviewed the handout outlining the dates the library will be closed in the next year. The board reviewed the dates and did not have any questions. Susan Sherman made a motion to approve the 2026 list of holidays and closings with Becky Amaral moving and Sue Regier seconding. All approved and none opposed. The motion carried.

Old Business:

Naming opportunity discussion

Dana relayed to the board that Shauna Beulah, branch manager of the St. Michaels library, will be retiring next year. She has been at the library for over 40 years and we would like to ask the board if they would like to choose a naming opportunity to honor her. After looking at the variety of choices, the board agreed on naming the art gallery hall after Shauna. Susan Sherman made a motion to approve naming the art gallery space at the St. Michaels library the Shauna Beulah Art Gallery with Sue Regier moving and Andrew Thaler seconding. All approved and none opposed. The motion carried.

New Business continued:

New Foundation board member approval – Stephen J. Kullman, CPA Managing Member

Dana shared that the Foundation has already approved Steve, and that the next step is getting the board to approve him. Steve's background was reviewed and agreed that with his financial background and passion for service, he is a great choice. Susan Sherman made a motion to approve Steve Kullman to the Foundation board with Sue Regier moving and Becky Amaral seconding. All approved and none opposed. The motion carried.

Easton Town Council Representative's Report –Robert Rankin relayed to the board that there is a pilot program for the town of Easton with the public parking lots. The public lot in front of the library as well as, other places in town, will now have a system of paying that is app-based. The first three hours will still be free, but you must register your car using a QR code to reserve your spot. There is a town meeting on December 15th where the public can ask questions. There will be information on this new procedure, and they are discussing a grace period if patrons park over the three hours.

Talbot County Council Report-Pete Leshar was present but did not have a report.

All other board reports were sent out before the meeting.

The Treasurer's report is one that requires board acceptance. Susan Sherman made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report with Charlie Yonkers moving and Sue Regier seconding. All approved and none opposed. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned early at 6:00 p.m. in order to enjoy a social hour.

Reminder: The next board meeting is Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at Easton.

Respectfully submitted, Katie Dodds