

Monroeville Public Library Board Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2026

Meeting held in-person with virtual option

Called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Members present

- Meredith, Kelly (President, Ward 7)
- Lucas, Cindy (Vice-President, Ward 2)
- Crane, Michael (Secretary/Treasurer and Immediate Past President, Ward 1)
- Kinnunen, Marty (Ward 4)
- Manners, Katherine (Ward 5)
- Toney, Phillip (Ward 6)
- Non-voting
 - Henline, Nicole (Library Director)
 - Bodziock, Pam (Assistant Director)
 - English, Dave (ACLA Liaison)
 - Snyder, Carol (Friends of the Monroeville Public Library)

Agenda

- Public Comment
 - Lisa Shaw of Fairlawn Drive spoke in support of the Library and the Love is Love display. Reminded that the library is a place where every member of the community is welcomed and that every child deserves to know they belong.
 - Lu Randal of Knollwood drive spoke in support of the Library and the Love is Love display. Does not know the legal definition of 'grooming' but considers it a wild ideology that books can groom children. Supports the display and says it needs to be here for those using the library. Commented that hate speech from those in leadership reinforces hate and dehumanizes people.
 - Scott McQuisston of Cottonwood Drive spoke in support of the Library and the Love is Love display. Is a new Monroeville Resident and got a library card within days of moving here. Book displays like the Love is Love display give him hope. Decried book censorship, and asked for the support of all children, since sexuality can't be controlled.
 - Lindsay White of Ramsey Road spoke in support of the Library and the Love is Love display. Has been a resident since 2020 and chose to raise her family in Monroeville because it is so diverse. Is the Pastor of Crossroads Presbyterian Church. Wants children to grow up in a tolerant society, and know that homosexuality is not a sin. Says that the library is like a second home, celebrating holidays such as Diwali, Ramadan, and Chaunakkah. Has checked

out books from the Love is Love display. Had a desire to teach children to not act like our municipal leaders and not make threats or uneducated statements.

- Andrew Oreski of Kentucky Avenue spoke in support of the Library and the Love is Love display. Has a wife and two year old who are always at the library and is sad the municipality is in this situation. Loves that the library is inclusive, and hopes that the antiquated philosophy of restricting thoughts will come to an end.
- Tom Dorchak of Kilbuck Drive spoke in support of the Library and the Love is Love display. Read many social media posts of the Ward 4 Municipal Council representative, and noted that the posts were not morality, but hate speech. Asked that the library not be bullied into taking the Love is Love display down.
- Lisa Petrosky of Highland Avenue spoke in support of the Library and the Love is Love display. She is a member of the Pitcairn council and came to express support for the library and the staff.
- Patty Whitaker of Northern Pike spoke in support of the Library and the Love is Love display. Was on the board for the GLCC, now the Pittsburgh Equality Center, and shared that having a community of choice helped when they were 18 and kicked out by their parents. Had felt that they had made a great choice moving to Monroeville because of its diversity. Noted that the books in the display do not talk about sexuality or grooming, but help children learn about different types of families growing up in a diverse world. Is appalled that the Love is Love display could lead to a funding cut.
- Christy Caprara of Tilbrook Road spoke in support of the Library and the Love is Love display. Called themselves a “straight suburban mom with a queer daughter who grew up in the library,” who is now going to college to be a social worker, and always felt welcome at the library. Comments that when those with small minds run a community, many will leave, resulting in a collapse of the tax base, and does not want to see that happen to Monroeville, and refuses to accept that kind of thinking and words from an elected official.
- David Morse of Evergreen Drive spoke in support of the Library and the Love is Love display. Has spent 40 years as a pastor and 12 as a Seminary Lecturer, and affirms the comments made so far of importance of inclusion. Thanks the library for having the display, which shows information, not propaganda. Urges the municipal council to not start down the slippery slope of intimidation and censorship.
- Rev. Kelly Smith of Northwestern Drive spoke in support of the Library and the Love is Love display. She is the pastor of Monroeville United Methodist church and here to represent them, as well as herself as a mom who comes to the library every week with her two kids. Thanks the library, the board, and the Friends of the Monroeville Public Library.

- Emily Hoffman of Gregory Drive spoke in support of the Library and the Love is Love display. Has been disappointed since comments were first made on June 19. Contacted both the mayor and the municipal manager to remind them that the display is protected and that public statements from elected officials carry significant influence. When those statements target or disparage a vulnerable community, they risk creating an environment where hostility is normalized. This is especially concerning when directed at a public institution like the Monroeville Public Library. She asked that the mayor and manager reaffirm the municipality's commitment to inclusion, professionalism, and the safety of its public employees.
- Bob Williams of Northern Pike spoke in opposition of the Love is Love display. Has been a resident since 1955, and quoted Leviticus, Chapter 18. Said that even if the Supreme Court has said things are legal, it does not make them moral. Would like to the display taken down and the books placed back on the shelves.
- Rosanna Weaver of Sunset Drive spoke in support of the Library and the Love is Love display. Started coming to this library before even bought a house in the municipality, and have two kids who have grown up in the library. Noted it is important for children to see reflections of themselves and others in books.
- Eric Bentley of Evergreen Drive spoke in support of the Library and the Love is Love display. Said that if the municipality goes down the slippery slope of using the Bible to removing what people don't agree with, we would have to get rid of everything.
- Bill Krut of Cavitt Road spoke in opposition of the Love is Love display. Expressed concern for parents who don't want to see the display, but suspects the display is up because of wanting to represent those that use the library. Is unsure how much people are influenced by reading materials that they see, and understands why the books should be available, but would like them to not be on display.
- Chelsea Lessik of Ramsey Road spoke in support of the Library and the Love is Love display. Her family is new to the are and loves the library, especially the children's area. Makes the point that they use the displays all the time, and her family makes an intentional effort to learn about different communities and to be good citizens of the world, and these displays help with that.
- Thanks, good news and Kudos
 - Overheard a patron recently filled with delight at all the resources that were available to her with her library card. The staff did an excellent job going over many of those with her at the front counter.

- An eight-year-old discovered that they can request books from other libraries and is very excited.
- Many thanks for the tea fundraiser; it was in in very capable hands, and lots of amazing pictures and videos are beings hared from attendees who loved it. Many kudos to the staff and volunteers, the event could not happen without so many hands.
- Kudos to the Children's Room for receiving two state-wide programming awards.
- The Maker Lab was reopened today for use! Classes are planned to be scheduled in August.
- Friends of the Monroeville Public Library
 - Congrats on the successful tea, and thanks for allowing the Friends to donate trays and stands to the event.
 - There will be a Pampered Chef party Tuesday, August 4 in gallery space at 6 p.m. Online sales will also open after and the friends will receive 30% of the proceeds.
 - Updates to Friends page of the website are coming, and they will be sending over some new pictures.
 - Public Works has the new Little Free Library for Monroeville Community Park, which will be installed either near the beginning of the Book Walk or near the gazebo. Books that are featured on the Book Walk will be stocked in the little free library for people to take, and they will have a sticker in them saying they came from the Friends. Another little free library will also be installed in Kelvington Park.
 - At the Friends' next meeting on July 1, they will be voting on their sponsorship of FunFest.
 - Working with Elaine Biondi's son on an endowment for the gallery space, still in the works.
- Municipal Report
 - In regards to the public comments, this is not the first time the municipality has had this discussion, but the library has always had a consistent policy in place.
 - As we move into municipal budget season, there is uncertainty about tax base moving forward. CVS Caremark will be leaving and the mall development is still in discussions. Funding is expected to drop off for at least two years. In addition, there are significant contracts coming up (maintenance, etc) and the Library's pay scales are still behind the rest of the municipality.

- Capital projects update
 1. Bathroom renovations are still on for this year. Working Mike Moia, of Design 3 Architecture, to get plans. Public Works can do a lot of the work, just need to buy supplies.
 2. We are looking at getting quotes for new carpet, potentially as a fundraising project during Love your Library month.
 3. There is a crack in the wall in the Children's Room, getting pricing from Mike Strom in Public works to get that fixed as soon as possible.
 4. Trees were removed in the back, on the property that the we now officially own, possibly due to disease. Trees were also removed in Monroeville Park East and West.
- Consent Agenda
 - Minutes - May 2026
 - Finances - May 2026
 - Book Nook and Concession - May 2026
 - Statistics - May 2026

Motion to approve Consent Agenda.
 Motion made by Crane
 Seconded by Lucas
 No discussion.
 Approved with unanimous vote.
- Director's Report
 - Grants
 1. We are applying for a grant through the Gismondi Family Foundation to increase fundraising capacity.
 2. We are looking into new grants for the teen after school program. Hoping to still get a grant from the McElhattan Foundation. If we get it this year, it will be the fifth year in a row. We did not get renewed by the Staunton Farm Foundation, so looking to fill that gap.
 3. The Action Grant through the state is coming through.
 - Staffing Updates

1. Two new part time employees have started, Carrigan and Sam. They are working great, and very customer service forward. Liam is helping in the back, and learning the front counter as well, hoping to be able to offer him a part time position in the future. Thankful to municipality for the four interns this summer, they have been a great help so far.
2. Staff is very concerned about safety due to the comments about the Children's Room and felt very unsafe. From this evening's meeting, we can reassure them, will be working to get back to normalcy.

- ACLA Report

- Annual request to RAD for county funds is due on Wednesday. ACLA is requesting a 3% increase over 2026 funding. New ACLA process includes talking with RAD throughout the process to find out what is realistic, so there is a good chance of getting that increase.
- The state budget is proceeding faster than last year. Last year ACLA got an increase of \$5 million. Policymakers are encouraged by discussions, and ACLA has requested a \$7.3 million increase over last year. Think it's reasonable to see an increase and are proceeding with cautious optimism.
- RAD funding is based on formula which includes local support. So as a reminder, anytime Monroeville spending on the library goes down, so does RAD funding for the library.
- Amy Anderson tried to get in with Sara Innamorato last year, but was not able to. Amy had a follow up meeting with her recently and reported a very positive meeting.
- At the state level, there is a new State Librarian. The previous State Librarian, Sue Banks, retired. Banks' deputy in the office, Heather Sharp, has been named to the position. Sharp was a public library director in Lancaster and a Marine Staff Sergeant.
- ACLA is looking at funding through foundations to hopefully increase social work interns for next year in the county. ACLA is reaching out for more funding for support for the program.

- New Business

- The board will draft a response to the outpouring of support, as well as to reaffirm the Board's support of the staff and director for creating an inclusive environment.
- Monroeville Citizens' Night is July 7th.
- The Board will reach out to the Municipality after talking with staff about safety.

- Old Business
 - Frekker reopened the Marker Lab. It has more space since the office portion was repurposed into the Maker Lab. Classes resume in august and open hours have begun.
- Committees
 - Fund Development
 1. Working on the Gismondi Family Foundation Grant.
 2. The Tea was a huge success, the final total is being calculated.
 - a) The theme for next year's Tea is "Murder, Mystery, and Mayhem."
 3. Fun Fest is August 22. We will have volunteer sign-ups after Independence Day. As a reminder, all volunteers will need their clearances.
 4. Working on Love your Library campaign letter.
 5. We are working with Mike Wargo to set up a Required Minimum Distribution program.
 - Policy Committee
 1. The Study Pod Policy has been posted in each of the study pods.
 2. The committee will be working on a few policies next: internet, collections, and privacy.
 3. The State of Pennsylvania requires the board to pass a measure to allow the Library Director to sign documents electronically to apply for state grants. The policy was reviewed.

Motion to approve the policy made by Crane
 Seconded by Kinnunen
 No discussion
 Approved with unanimous vote.

Motion to adjourn
 Motion to adjourn made by Lucas
 Seconded by Kinnunen
 No discussion
 Approved with unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Upcoming events

- July 7, 7 p.m. - Monroeville Citizens' Night
- August 4, 6p.m. - Pampered Chef Party in the Gallery
- August 22 - Fun Fest

Action items

- All - Volunteer for Fun Fest when the link is distributed

Next scheduled Board meeting is Monday, July 27 at 7 p.m.