

City of Malden Library Committee Goals and Actions

March 3, 2026 Draft

1. **Improve Relationships and Communication**

Foster respectful, open dialogue and rebuild trust between the City Council, Council President and the Library Board of Trustees that emphasizes discussion, development of mutual goals and a means to productively frame, elevate and resolve issues that may arise between the Library Trustees and City Officials.

2. **Define Roles and Authority**

- Clarify the role of the Council President and Mayor as an ex-officio members of the Library Board of Trustees, including limits on authority and voting rights (e.g., voting only in the case of a tie).
- Clarify the Council President's responsibility for seeking guidance from the Council on keeping the Council informed about the Council President's activities as a Library Trustee and when to seek advice from the Council related to those activities.

3. **Increase Public Understanding and Transparency**

Improve public access to information about the library's governance, finances, and its relationship to the City, recognizing that the City provides substantial funding to the Library and many residents assume the library is a standard city department that should respond to public records requests and follow open meeting law.

4. **Build Greater Public Understanding and Trust in Library Trustees Financial Management of Both City Funding and Oversight of Trust Assets**

- Work collaboratively with Trustees to identify best financial practices that library and /or non-profits of similar size use
- Support the Trustees in updating their current practices to those standards

Action Items

1. **Document Committee Goals and Steps**

Create a written list of goals and specific steps the committee intends to take to guide its work and provide structure. [\[Document | Word\]](#)

2. **Schedule Follow-Up Committee Meeting**

Hold at least one additional committee meeting to finalize goals, action items, and approach before external outreach. [\[Document | Word\]](#)

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3. **Initiate Outreach to Library Leadership**

Contact the Library Director and the Chair of the Library Board of Trustees (once the director returns) to begin discussions on roles, expectations, and collaboration.

4. **Draft Written Role Clarification**

Begin developing written guidance that clearly explains:

- The ex-officio role of the Council President
- Voting authority and limitations
- The governance relationship between the City and the Library

5. **Address Transparency and Records Access**

Explore how library-held public records and governance information can be made accessible to residents in a clear and transparent way. Follow-up on understanding agreement between Attorney General and Library Trustees on complying with Public Records Requests.