

Rock Island Public Library Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 21, 2025
5:00 p.m.
Rock Island Public Library – 2nd Floor, Downtown Library

Type of Meeting: Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

Meeting Facilitator: Jenni Swanson

Call to Order: President Swanson called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Attendance: Deborah Freiburg, Nick Hammond, Jo Noon, Dr. Yolanda Grandberry Pugh, Elizabeth Russell, Eudell Watts, III; Angela Campbell, Library Director; Kayla Steffen, Business & Facilities Director; Kathy Lelonek, Foundation Director; Lisa Lockheart, Publicity & Outreach Liaison; Rob Baugous, Director of Human Resources

Absent: Jacki Nelson, Aleatha Quarles

Public Comment: None.

Approval of minutes:

Trustee Russell made a motion to approve the Board of Trustees minutes from December 17th, 2024, and the Ad-hoc Technology Committee minutes from January 9th, 2025. Trustee Noon seconded the motion. President Swanson took a voice vote. All ayes, no nays. Motion passed.

Board Education:

Waiting for more info from iLEAD; waiting for the new standards to be released.

Correspondence:

- Thank You from Clock, Inc.

Committee Reports:

Finance – Jenni Swanson

- President Swanson made a motion to approve monthly bills for December in the amount of \$110,775.97. Trustee Russell seconded the motion. President Swanson took a roll call vote. All ayes, no nays. Motion passed.

Art & Facilities – Jacki Nelson

- CDBG Bathroom Remodel - Updates
- Voting item under “New Business,” #4

- Pricing updates - \$97,900 in funds from last year may be carried forward to this year, pending council approval.
- Kayla Steffen, Business & Facilities Director, will schedule a meeting with Valley Construction, President Swanson, and Director Campbell, to negotiate the Watts-Midtown wall repair. A more affordable, but short-term, option is covering the crack with a banner.

Personnel & Policy – Debbie Freiburg

- HR is waiting for documentation to verify the deferred compensation decision. For transparency purposes, the item will be voted on again at the January meeting, with more specificity in the voting language.

Planning & Community Relations – Dr. Yolanda Grandberry Pugh

- The Strategic Plan has been professionally printed, and is now available.
- Angela will be presenting the new plan, along with the Library Annual Report, at the February 24th City Council Study Session.
- Lisa Lockheart has created a concise, two-sided version of the plan for the public.

Technology Ad-hoc Committee – Nick Hammond

- Met on January 9 at 3pm.
- Committee recommendations for discussion:
 - o For 2025 – Increase internet speed to 1 gigabyte; IT will look into the best firewall/hardware for that speed, and make recommendations for purchase. They will install the hardware when it arrives.
 - o For 2026 – Look into grants/funding for an IT position (part-time on-site at the library). Potentially put this in the CY 2026 budget.

Foundation Updates – Kathy Lelonek:

- Next Meeting: February 13, 2025 at 4:00pm at the Downtown Library.
- Money transfer to pay off the branch is in progress.
- The first book sale of the year is on January 24th.

Administrator Reports:

- Director's Report
- Statistics
- Milan Blackhawk Area Public Library District
 - o Next Regular Meeting – January 23, 2025 at 4pm at the Southwest Branch

Unfinished Business:

1. Art Curation Project – Updates
Working on the grant, no artists lined up.

New Business:

1. Trustee Russell made a motion to send three Youth Services staff members to the Illinois Library Association's "Youth Services Institute," from February 27-28 in Bloomington, Illinois. Dr. Grandberry-Pugh seconded the motion. President Swanson took a roll call vote. All ayes, no nays. Motion carried.
2. The board discussed the CY2026 statement of fund requirements for the annual 4-10 report. The UAW contract is set at 3%, so asking for 3% would only cover slightly more than wage raises. To keep up with inflation, President Swanson recommends asking for 5% due to the rise in digitalization. Trustee Noon made a motion to approve the CY2026 statement of fund requirements for the annual 4-10 report, at 5%. Trustee Freiburg seconded the motion. President Swanson took a roll call vote. All ayes, no nays. Motion carries.
3. Trustee Watts made a motion to approve the 3-year contract agreement with United Auto Workers, Local 2282, starting January 21, 2025. Dr. Grandberry-Pugh seconded the motion. President Swanson took a roll call vote. All ayes, no nays. Motion carries.
4. Trustee Watts made a motion to approve using up to \$156,950 of assigned-reserve funds to complete the first-floor restroom renovations. Trustee Freiburg seconded the motion. President Swanson took a roll call vote. All ayes, no nays. Motion carries.
5. Trustee Freiburg made a motion to approve contributing an amount equal to 5% of the Library Director's annual salary to a deferred compensation plan (457b), aligning the Library Director's total compensation package with other city department heads. Trustee Noon seconded the motion. No discussion. President Swanson took a roll call vote. All ayes, no nays. Motion carries.
6. Appoint Board nominating committee. Trustee Quarles and Dr. Grandberry-Pugh are currently on the committee. The nominating committee will be discussed at the next monthly meeting.

Information Sharing:

- Board Contact Info & Terms
- Board Standing Committees
- Unique Management Reports
- Dr. Grandberry-Pugh will be presenting a documentary on illiteracy at Watts-Midtown, with additional details coming soon.

Executive Sessions:

President Swanson made a motion to enter closed session at 5:35pm, per 5 ILCS 120/2(c) Exception 2, Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their

representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. Voting item #3 under “New Business” will happen in an open session. Trustee Noon seconded the motion. President Swanson took a roll call vote. All ayes, no nays. Motion passes.

Trustee Watts made a motion to reopen the meeting at 5:39pm. Dr. Grandberry-Pugh seconded the motion. President Swanson took a roll call vote. All ayes, no nays. Motion passes.

Announcements

- Next Board Meeting – February 18, 2025 at 5pm, Downtown Library
- The State of the City Address – January 28th

Adjournment: Dr. Grandberry-Pugh made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:45pm. Trustee Watts seconded the motion. President Swanson took a voice vote. All ayes, no nays. Motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kayla Steffen
Business Office & Facilities Director