

**Rock Island Public Library Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 20, 2026**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
***Rock Island Public Library – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Downtown Library***

**Type of Meeting:** Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

**Meeting Facilitator:** Jenni Swanson

**Invitees:** Deborah Freiburg, Nick Hammond, Jacki Nelson, Jo Noon, Aleatha Quarles, Dr. Yolanda Grandberry Pugh, Elizabeth Russell, Shelly Johnson; Eudell Watts III (Emeritus Board Member); Angela Campbell, Library Director; Daniel Cuneo, Business & Facilities Director; Lisa Lockheart, Marketing Manager; Kathy Lelonek, Foundation Director.

- Call to Order: President Swanson called the meeting to order at 5 P.M.
- Attendance: Trustee Aleatha Quarles and Emeritus Member Eudell Watts III were absent.
- Public Comment: There was no public comment.
- Approval of Minutes
  - Trustee Nelson moved to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting on December 16, 2025. Trustee Noon seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion passed via voice vote with all in-favor.
- Board Education – Illinois Public Library Standards
  - Director Campbell briefly discussed the Illinois Public Library Standards for both RIPL’s “Marketing & Promotion Action Plan” and “Programming Action Plan.” She said that RIPL scored very high in these two areas, thanks to the tireless work of Marketing Manager Lisa Lockheart and all of the Library’s programmers. On a separate note, while the Library could always benefit from bolstering partnerships, staffing is a limiting factor.
- Correspondence –
  - Director Campbell updated the Board on the resolution of the month’s Library correspondence, which included a damaged book and thanks for the wildly popular “Sew Much Fun” class that launched in the new year. Demand for that class -- and analog hobbies in general - has been so high that the Library purchased 4 new sewing machines and added dates to upcoming classes.
  - The Board also talked about IPLAR and the 2026 Certification, which then transitioned into a discussion of whether the Board, as an entity, needs its own Library email address. Trustee Hammond said it’s not worth the additional cost and hassle. The other members concurred.
- Committee Reports
  - Finance – Jenni Swanson

- President Swanson moved to approve the monthly bills for December in the amount of \$150,002.28. Trustee Russell seconded. Director Cuneo noted that bills were significantly higher this month because it was also the end of the City's fiscal year and the Library had been relatively frugal to that point. He added that RIPL was still projected to end FY25 with a small surplus. The motion passed via roll call vote: all ayes, no nays.
  
- Art & Facilities – Jacki Nelson
  - Director Cuneo walked the Board through his efforts to prevent additional freezing in the Downtown Library HVAC plumbing. He discovered that the Library's chilled water loop had not been fortified with glycol to prevent freezing. Some has since been purchased and will be added to the system by JCI after repairs are completed. This will give the chilled loop an additional 15\* of freeze prevention. Additional steps are being considered as a deliberate redundancy. Quotes are incoming.
  - Jeff Laxton and Nichole Mata held a bid walkthrough for the Children's Room bathroom renovation this month. Director Cuneo explained the bidding process to the Board and was optimistic that the many respondents would translate into competitive bids for the project.
  
- Personnel & Policy – Debbie Freiburg
  - The committee will meet March 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:40 P.M. for their quarterly policy review. This meeting will immediately precede the Board of Trustees meeting on the same night.
  
- Planning & Community Relations – Dr. Yolanda Grandberry Pugh
  - Director Campbell will present RIPL's annual report at the City Council meeting on Feb 23 at 5:45 P.M., right at the top of the meeting. She invited the trustees to attend.
  
- Technology Ad-hoc Committee – Nick Hammond
  - Trustee Hammond asked if there was any update on City IT department staffing, as he hasn't been able to make headway on color printing & faxing for the Southwest Branch Library. President Swanson said that there have been no hires. She has a meeting with the City Manager on January 23 and will ask for more details on what's changing with IT.
  
- Foundation Updates – Kathy Lelonek
  - Foundation President Lelonek is looking forward to the book sale this coming weekend. She and Library staff members had already fielded multiple calls asking whether the sale would be canceled because of the extreme cold forecasted, but the sale will continue.
  - "Food for Thought" planning is underway again. It will likely be at the Hauberg Estate again, sometime after graduation.
  - The next Foundation meeting is February 12, 2026

- Administrator Reports
  - Director’s Campbell reported that everything is going well at the Library, especially with programming. The past weekend’s Hug-A-Book event saw 95 kids and their family come into the Downtown Library!
  - The Milan Blackhawk Area Public Library District Board is due to reconvene for 2026. Their next regular meeting is January 22, 2026 at 4 P.M. at the Southwest Branch.
  
- Unfinished Business
  - The next gate count is scheduled for April 5 – 17. The Board will discuss Library hours after the data comes back.
  
- New Business
  1. President Swanson moved to approve a 3% general wage increase (GWI) for all non-affiliated employees, beginning January 1, 2026. Trustee Freiburg seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed via roll call vote: all ayes, no nays.
  
  2. Trustee Freiburg to approve the annual fee of \$128 for a non-resident library card, per the mathematical formula. Trustee Noon seconded. Director Campbell then reminded the Board that the \$128 fee is unchanged from the prior year. The motion passed via roll call vote: all ayes, no nays.
  
  3. Trustee Noon motioned to approve library fund requirements for CY 2027, to be included in the CY 2025 annual “4-10” report to the City. Trustee Nelson seconded. Director’s Campbell and Cuneo walked the Board through the significant staffing challenges facing RIPL in the coming years, many due to broader financial demands and social changes far outside of the Library’s control. Their position is that it rising costs for families both drive increases in library use and make it more difficult to maintain part-time staff—many of whom leave for positions elsewhere that offer medical benefits. The recommended that that Board allow for the possibility that RIPL funding may need to increase more than its standard percentage bump. Director Cuneo suggested this could be phrased as a Not-to-Exceed, and the Board agreed, citing 5% as their number. The motion passed via roll call vote: all ayes, no nays.
  
  4. Trustee Hammond motioned to approve Johnson Controls (Sourcewell) service contract for preventative maintenance of Downtown Library boilers, chiller, and controls in the amount of \$22,476 over 3 years. Trustee Grandberry-Pugh seconded. Several members then asked Director Cuneo to explain the numbers and how a service agreement compared with costs incurred in CY25. Director Cuneo broke the service agreement down into a monthly cost less than RIPL currently pays for monthly elevator maintenance. He also explained how the Sourcewell agreement guaranteed that RIPL was getting a competitive rate. Trustee Grandberry-Pugh asked for some additional clarification on costs that exceed the \$22,476 on the table in the current motion. The motion then passed via roll call vote: all ayes, no nays
  
  5. Director Campbell said that a review of the Board’s master agenda was moved to next month’s meeting.

- Information Sharing
  - There will be a meeting of the Nominating & Rules Committee on February 17 @ 4:45 P.M. to discuss upcoming term-mandated changes to the Board.
- Executive Session – None was needed.
- Announcements
  - Next Board Meeting – February 17, 2026 at 5pm, Downtown Library
- Adjournment –
  - Trustee Freiburg motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 P.M. Trustee Grandberry-Pugh seconded. The motion passed via voice vote with all in-favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel Cuneo  
Business & Facilities Director