

Rock Island Public Library Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 17, 2026
5:00 p.m.
Rock Island Public Library – 2nd 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.

- I. **Call to Order:** President Swanson called the meeting to order @ 5 P.M.
- II. **Attendance:** Trustees Freiburg and Grandberry-Pugh were absent.
- III. **Public Comment:** None.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - Trustee Noon moved to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees Meeting on January 20, 2026. Trustee Johnson seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion passed via voice vote with all in favor.
- V. **Board Education:**
 - Director Campbell walked the Board through the state standards for Safety & Emergency Preparedness. She and Director Cuneo had met earlier in the day to detail where the Library could improve. They found that RIPL is above standard but also due to review and revise its disaster plan, primarily because of technology improvements made by the Library this year.
- VI. **Correspondence:**
 - Director Campbell shared a patron comment which requested more books on St. Francis of Assisi. The Reference team is looking into newer titles.
 - The Board also discussed two thank you notes from very young patrons who appreciate the Children's collection. Everyone agreed they were heartwarming to read.
- VII. **Committee Reports:**
 - A) **Finance –**
 - President Swanson moved to approve monthly bills for January in the amount of \$38,834.58. Trustee Russell seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion passed via roll call vote: all aye, no nay.
 - Director Campbell gave a summary of the Library's 2025 Statement of Accounts, saying that after year-end closing and auditing procedures the RIPL managed a small surplus.

B) Art & Facilities –

- Director Cuneo informed the Board that the previous calculations for the winterization of the Downtown Library’s chiller loop [HVAC] were based on a 500-gallon system when it’s in-fact 1000 gallons. More glycol needed to be ordered as a result—a cost of several thousand dollars. He reiterated, however, this was a one-time cost to safeguard the system against future freezing; future additions would be only small top-off not exceeding 10 gallons of product.
- Director Cuneo then gave a detailed explanation on the state of the Downtown Library windows, following his recent consultation with Jeff Laxton, the City’s Construction Officer. They agree that the facility cannot wait to replace the windows until the Master Plan is implemented in some number of years: the building is already seeing regular water penetration during storms, and mounting damage could prove to be significant if not addressed with relative immediacy.

Pella Windows was brought in to take measurements and provide an estimate for the physical windows themselves. The aim is for the Library to purchase the windows themselves, leveraging its tax-exempt status to save money, and then put the installation itself out for bid.

Director Cuneo said it would be up to the Board to determine if the Library should use its assigned reserves to cover the cost of the window replacement, based on the totals from the bid. The Board agreed that it was necessary to work-out what the cost would be but that they wanted safeguard the building as best they could. Director Campbell said she was looking into other funding possibilities.

C) Personnel & Policy –

- Committee Chair Freiburg wasn’t present. Director Campbell noted that the next committee meeting will be March 17th at 4:30pm at the Downtown Library.

D) Planning & Community Relations –

- Committee Chair Grandberry-Pugh wasn’t present, but there were no updates from the committee.

E) Technology Ad-hoc Committee –

- Trustee Hammond said he’s unable to make any headway on the longstanding issue of color printing and faxing at the Library branches because of staffing changes in the City’s IT department. President Swanson agreed that nothing can be done until either the City replaces IT staff or outsources part of the IT workload.

VIII. Foundation Updates:

- Foundation President Lelonek gave a recap the Foundation’s meeting on February 12. The mood was very positive. New donations are being routed, with consent, to a building fund for the Master Plan. Trustee Russell added that the Foundation Board also received a very favorable investment report from Blackhawk Bank, who noted that the market outlook is stable.

- Foundation President Lelonek also announced that the annual “Food for Thought” fundraiser will be Thursday, June 18, 2026 at the Hauberg Estate, from 6-8:30 P.M. President Swanson playfully requested more expert crochet work from Susan Wahlman for the silent auction.
- The next Foundation meeting will be May 14, 2026. The Executive Committee will also be meeting at some point to make a donation recommendation for the Master Plan.

IX. Administrator Reports:

- Director Campbell gave updates on the operations at RIPL: extra funding has been allocated to the Hug-a-Book project; there was a generous donation from the Horstmann Trust that will make a large impact on Library programming and other initiatives; and the staff had a successful First Friday training on safety & security, presented by Director Cuneo.
- Applications for the new Director of Youth Services are coming in, and the team is eager to meet the candidates.
- Library statistics continued their upward trend, and programming for analog crafts has been filling up. She open a new section of her Saturday sewing class and reservations filled in less than 1 minute—something to be proud of.
- Director Campbell is presenting the Library’s Annual Report to the City Council on Monday, February 23. Everyone is encouraged to show their support. Marketing Director Lockheart created a full color print version of the report so that Council members and other stakeholders could have something tangible to review the report with, and she handed copies out to the Trustees.
- President Swanson added that Community Economic Development will be also be unveiling their strategic plan. She anticipates there will be some public comment from citizens concerned about the Alter Company/Langman Construction-owned properties off of 31st Street.
- The next regular meeting of the Milan-Blackhawk Area Public Library District Board is scheduled for April 23, 2026 at 4 P.M. at the Southwest Branch

X. Unfinished Business:

1. The next gate count will be April 5 – 17. The Board will review Library service hours afterwards.
2. Director Campbell and the Board quickly reviewed the Board’s Master Agenda and found that everything is on-track and scheduled appropriately.

XI. New Business:

1. Trustee Noon moved to approve the recommended bid package for the Children’s Room restroom renovation. Trustee Nelson seconded. Director Cuneo then gave an overview of the project bids. He said that Jeff Laxton had given Bush Construction one week to provide additional information, lest their bid be ruled incomplete. In that case,

the remaining bids were all close enough that the change would not have a significant financial impact on the project. The Board agreed and the motion passed via roll call vote: all ayes, no nays.

2. Trustee Noon moved to approve funding the remaining balance of the Children's Room restroom project after CDBG funds have been expended. Trustee Quarles seconded. Director Campbell reminded the Board that the Library received a CDBG award of \$30,000; and Director Cuneo added that he always anticipates a 10% contingency, especially with the plumbing unknowns for that area of the Library walls. The motion passed via roll call vote: all ayes, no nays.
3. Trustee Nelson moved to approve closed session minutes resolution, which lists all closed session minutes within the past 6 months and determines which minutes should remain sealed and/or released to the public. Trustee Nelson seconded. Both President Swanson and Trustee Noon stated that they believe personnel matters remain sealed, and the remaining Board members unanimously agreed. The motion passed via voice vote with all in favor.
4. Trustee Russell moved to dispose of any closed session minutes older than 18 months, as allowable by law. Trustee Quarles seconded. President Swanson clarified that the minutes in question included only contract negotiations and Director Campbell's reviews. The motion passed via roll call vote: all ayes, no nays.
5. Trustee Russell moved to dispose of closed session recordings as allowed by law. Trustee Quarles seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion passed via roll call vote: all ayes, no nays.
6. Trustee Nelson moved to approve and submit the 2026 Illinois Public Library Annual Report (IPLAR). Trustee Johnson seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion passed via roll call vote: all ayes, no nays.

XII. Information Sharing:

- Unique Management Reports were included in the Board packet. There was no discussion.
- Board Standing Committees will be set in May when new Board members are onboarded.
- President Swanson asked that all Board members verify and update their contact information.

XIII. Executive Session: Not needed

XIV. Announcements:

- Personnel & Policy Committee Meeting: March 17, 2026 at 4:30pm, Downtown Library
- Next Board Meeting – March 17, 2026 at 5pm, Downtown Library

XV. Adjournment:

- Marketing Manager Lockheart told the Board that Tuesday, April 21 is Library Worker's Day. RIPL's Staff Association is asking the Board to partner with them by providing Casey's Breakfast Pizza to the staff as a thank you.
- President Swanson reminded the Board that Sue Foster, the longtime Director of Youth Services, will be retiring at the end of March. Her retirement gathering is open door and will take place in the Downtown Library's Children's Room on Thursday, March 26th. Times are forthcoming.
- Trustee Russell moved to adjourn the meeting @ 5:38 P.M. and Trustee Quarles seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed via unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Cuneo
Business & Facilities Director