

Rock Island Public Library Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 16, 2024
5:00 p.m.
Rock Island Public Library – 2nd Floor, Downtown Library

Type of Meeting: Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

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

Attendance: Jenni Swanson, Karen Phillips, Pat Mahar, Jo Noon, Deborah Freiburg, Elizabeth Russell, Dr. Yolanda Grandberry Pugh; Angela Campbell, Library Director; Kayla Steffen, Business & Facilities Director; Lisa Lockheart, Publicity & Outreach Liasion.

Absent: Eudell Watts III; Kathy Lelonek, Foundation Director; Maryam Alhamdan, RIHS Student Advisor

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes:

Trustee Freiburg made a motion to accept the December 19th, 2023 Board of Trustees minutes as presented. Trustee Mahar seconded. President Swanson took a voice vote. All ayes, no nays. Motion carries.

Trustee Freiburg made a motion to accept the December 19th, 2023 Personnel & Policy Committee minutes as presented. Trustee Phillips seconded. President Swanson took a voice vote. All ayes, no nays. Motion carries.

Board Education: A few questions were asked and answered regarding Chapters 1 & 2 of Serving Our Public 4.0. The board enjoys receiving continuing education highlights and opportunities. Director Campbell invited the board to attend the Illinois Library Association's Trustee Day in October 2024.

Correspondence: None.

Committee Reports:

Finance - Jenni Swanson

Trustee Phillips made a motion to approve monthly bills for December in the amount of \$78,607.34. Trustee Noon seconded. With no further discussion, President Swanson took a recorded vote: 7 ayes: Phillips, Nelson, Mahar, Noon, Freiburg, Russell, Grandberry Pugh; 0 nays, 1 absent: Watts III. Motion carries.

Art & Facilities – Pat Mahar

The Art & Facilities Committee met one-hour prior to the Board meeting to discuss hiring a curator and obtaining funding. Many options are available for exploration.

Personnel & Policy – Debbie Freiburg

Committee Chair Freiburg reported that the Administrator's evaluation is complete and will be closed for another year. The Personnel & Policy Committee is scheduled to meet February 20th at 4pm to review policies.

Planning & Community Relations – Karen Phillips

The meeting planned for February 22nd has been moved from 4:00pm to 4:30pm at Watts-Midtown. Director Campbell announced that the library has scheduled public conversations (focus groups) for late March. This will assist the library's Strategic Planning Committee in developing a new plan. Stakeholder interviews are also in the works.

Foundation Updates:

Food for Thought is in the works and is planned for June at the Carriage Haus. Director Campbell reports that Trustee Watts III is still planning to do a trivia night in the late summer. Book sale and PALS funds will be available in early February. Restricted funds from the foundation for collections and programs will also be available in February. Hoffman & Tranel are preparing for an audit soon.

The next meeting of the RIPL Foundation is February 8, at 4pm.

Administrator Reports:

Director Campbell discussed strategic planning and building issues. She also reported that the Aide positions were reclassified and no one's pay was affected. Statistics are looking great. Lastly, she reminded the group that the next Milan Blackhawk Area Public Library District board meeting is January 25th, at 4pm, at the Southwest Branch.

Unfinished Business:

- The Art Curation project will remain under unfinished business until a final decision is made about next steps.

New Business

- Board members who want to be included in the proposed Slate of Officers should reach out to Director Campbell, and/or can self-nominate at the February meeting. Voting will occur at the March meeting.
- Trustee Phillips made a motion to approve the statement of fund requirements for CY 2025 to be included in the annual "4-10" report to the City. Trustee Nelson seconded. A brief discussion was held regarding the tax levy. The CY 2024 deficit is around \$200,000, plus deflationary costs will need to be considered for CY 2025. Director Campbell reports that an estimated \$400,000 is needed to break even – so we will request the funds we need. President Swanson took a recorded vote - 7 ayes: Phillips, Nelson, Mahar, Noon, Freiburg, Russell, Grandberry Pugh; 0 nays, 1 absent: Watts III. Motion carries.

- Trustee Noon made a motion to change the staff professional development day and associated library closing from Thursday, August 22, 2024, to Wednesday, August 21, 2024. Trustee Mahar seconded. Director Campbell explained that the reason for the change was a scheduling conflict. President Swanson took a voice vote. All ayes, no nays. Motion carries.
- Master Agenda items were reviewed and left as is.

Information Sharing – Documents included in Board Packet

1. Unique Management Reports
2. Standing Committees List (shared at each meeting)
3. Database Enrichment statistics for CY 2023

Executive Session – Not needed.

Announcements

- Personnel & Policy Committee Meeting – February 20th, 2024 at 4pm, Downtown Library.
- Next Board Meeting – February 20th, 2024 at 5pm, Downtown Library.
- The library's Winter Reading program has started.

Adjournment

Trustee Freiburg made a motion to adjourn at 5:30pm. Trustee Phillips seconded. President Swanson took a voice vote. All ayes, no nays. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Kayla Steffen, Business & Facilities Director