

Rock Island Public Library Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 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 at 5 P.M.
- II. **Attendance:** Trustees Nelson, Quarles, and Johnson were absent, as was Emeritus Member Watts.
- III. **Public Comment:** None.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - Trustee Noon moved to approve the minutes from the Library Board of Trustees Meeting on February 17, 2026. Trustee Russell seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion passed via voice vote with all-in-favor.
 - President Swanson moved to approve the minutes from the Nominating Committee Meeting on February 17, 2026. Trustee Noon seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion passed via voice vote with all-in-favor.
- V. **Board Education – Illinois Public Library Standards:**
 - Director Campbell discussed the Technology Action Plan and was candid that RIPL meets core or intermediate criteria in most categories. Not loaning PCs or tablets is a financial decision rooted in our continuing difficulty with hotspot borrowing: loaning high-value electronics is too high of a budgetary risk given the data we have. However, RIPL needs to make a new replacement schedule for technology and could use more adaptive technology

Marketing Manager Lisa Lockheart noted that RIPL does have screen readers and hi-viz keyboards available for patrons, though.

Ideally, Director Campbell said, the Library would have its own IT staff member, which would significantly reduce the number of technology barriers RIPL faces. She also said that to improve RIPL's technology scoring (per the standards), technology will need to be added to the Library's strategic plan.

President Swanson said that the City has decided to hire an IT Director and would keep the Board informed.

VI. Correspondence:

- The Board was delighted to hear about Youth Services Librarian Emily's impact.

VII. Committee Reports –

Finance:

President Swanson motioned to approve monthly bills for February in the amount of \$51,478.42. Trustee Russell seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed via roll call vote: all ayes, no nays.

Director Campbell updated the Board on funding options for the Downtown Library Master Plan. Her recent stakeholder meetings showed only positive interest from City Council members. She and Foundation President Lelonek are floating a wide funding model that relies on 5-year pledges from the Foundation, the City of Rock Island, and some other major donors. While that would provide a stream of project funds, a lot more work needs to be done to get the project greenlit. In particular, Director Campbell would like the architects to do the value engineering so that RIPL has a better estimate of the total funding required for the master plan.

Foundation President Lelonek added that she and Directors Campbell & Cuneo had a very productive meeting with former mayor Mike Toums that lasted more than two hours. He gave them a lot to think about, as well as some new contacts to reach out to.

Art & Facilities:

Trustee Nelson was absent. Director Cuneo said he will send out a Doodle poll for the date. But Director Campbell said it might be best to wait for the new Board members to be appointed – as Art & Facilities is a great committee to help onboarding members understand the Library operations.

Personnel & Policy:

Director Campbell asked to reschedule the Personnel & Policy Committee Meeting for April. RIPL administrators need more time to revise some of the Library's key policies. Trustee Freiburg suggested a time slot immediately before the Board's general meeting in April. Trustee Noon said she would not be able to attend if that were the case. After some discussion, the meeting was scheduled for 4 P.M. on April 21, 2017.

Planning & Community Relations:

Director Campbell briefed the Board on RIPL's upcoming Library Citizens' Academy

Technology Ad-hoc Committee:

Trustee Hammond said that the Library's years-long push for color printing and faxing at the branch libraries was on hold until the City hires new IT staff.

VIII. Foundation Updates:

- Foundation President Lelonek gave a brief recap of the planning for the Foundation's annual fundraiser. Sponsorships are starting to coming in for the event, which she is happy about.
- President Swanson asked if it would be possible to blow-up the renderings of the Downtown Library Master Plan and display them at Food for Thought. Marketing Manager Lisa Lockheart said that she would work on it.
- The next Foundation meeting will be May 14, 2026 at the Downtown Library.

IX. Administrator Reports:

- Director's Report: Director Campbell asked if the Board had questions about her report. Trustee Grandberry-Pugh asked how the search for a new Director of Youth Services was going, and what Director Campbell thought of the applicants. Director Campbell mentioned that there were a smaller number of applicants with an MLIS degree than she'd expected. However, she had several strong candidates and a possible internal candidate, too. She also took a moment to remind the Board that Sue Foster, a 29-year veteran of Adult Services at RIPL, has a retirement reception in the Children's Room on May 20th.
- Statistics: President Swanson said that Director Campbell's IPLAR presentation before the City Council was well received.
- The next meeting of the Milan Blackhawk Area Public Library District will be April 23, 2026 at 4pm at the Southwest Branch

X. Unfinished Business:

1. Gate count and hours discussion will be coming up in April.

XI. New Business:

1. President Swanson reviewed the current slate of officers nominated as Bard officers. She then asked if there were nominations from the floor. With no made, she said the Board will vote on the slate at the April 21, 2026 Board meeting.
2. Trustee Russell motioned to send Daniel Cuneo, Library Business & Facilities Director, to the IFMA Facility Management Training Professional program for \$1850, paid for by the Library's Continuing Education budget line. Trustee Grandberry-Pugh seconded. The motion passed via roll call vote: all ayes, no nays.
3. Trustee Russell motioned to extend the Bucktown Americana Revue contract for the 2026-2027 season, with minor contract updates. Trustee Noon seconded. Director Campbell asked if anyone wanted to increase the fee from last year, and Trustee Russell said she was okay with keeping the fee the same, given how many people Bucktown brings into the Watts-Midtown space.

Trustee Grandberry-Pugh asked about the hours extension mentioned in the contract. Director Campbell said it was actually a correction made to match the language of the contract with the typical hours of the event. The substantive updates were the new show dates.

With no further discussion, the motion passed via roll call vote: all ayes, no nays.

4. Director Campbell have a quick update on RIPL's progress on the 2025-2030 Strategy Plan. She added that staff members are now required to explain during their annual performance reviews how they're personally working to move the Strategic Plan forward.
5. The Board then had an extensive conversation on Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Board members were primarily concerned with the cost of the program and how it would fall on RIPL to pay for the entire county if smaller municipalities didn't pay-in. Director Campbell explained that the State of Illinois would be paying for half of the cost, citing Mike Halpin's efforts on this project in the past. Foundation President Lelonek mentioned that it's Imagination Library itself that sets the funding to be by-county. The fee is graduated: \$35K in the first year and progressing to \$150K in the fifth year. Unfortunately, the money can only pass through a non-profit corporation like the Library Foundation, which has been the sticking point in the past – as the Library Foundation would have to spearhead fundraising and would assume all of the risk.

Board members had robust discussion on whether the community members who most needed the books would receive them through the program, and there was no consensus.

Director Campbell and Foundation President Lelonek are going to continue to look at budgets and financing options and report back to the Board.

XII. Information Sharing:

- Unique Management Reports
- Board Standing Committees
- Board Contact Info & Terms
- IPLAR Approval Email

XIII. Executive Session: Not needed.

XIV. Announcements

- Next Board Meeting – April 21, 2026 at 5pm, Downtown Library

XV. Adjournment: President Swanson adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Cuneo
Business & Facilities Director

**Represents a potential voting item*