Rock Island Public Library Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 21, 2026
5:00 p.m.
Rock Island Public Library – 2nd Floor, Downtown Library

Type of Meeting: Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

Meeting Facilitator: Jenni Swanson

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

Attendance: Deborah Freiburg, Nick Hammond, Dr. Yolanda Grandberry-Pugh, Kim Miers, Alisha Hanes; Angela Campbell, Library Director; Lisa Lockheart, Marketing Manager;

Jo Noon, Aleatha Quarles , Shelly Johnson, Eudell Watts III (Emeritus Board Member); Daniel Cuneo, Business & Facilities Director; Kathy Lelonek, Foundation Director.

Public Comment: None

Prior moving forward with the agenda, President Swanson gave the **Oath of Office** for two new board members: Alisha Hanes and Kim Miers. Due to Trustee Noon's absence, she will take the oath of office at the next meeting for her reappointment to the Board.

Approval of Minutes:
President Swanson made a motion to approve the Board of Trustees minutes for June 16, 2026. Trustee Hammond seconded. Without further discussion, President Swanson took a voice vote. All ayes, motion passes.

President Swanson made a motion to approve the Board Finance Committee minutes for July 9, 2026. Trustee Hammond seconded. Without further discussion, President Swanson took a voice vote. All ayes, motion passes.

Board Education:
The Board reviewed the State Standards for access. They discussed the potential for us to add multilingual signage.

The Board reviewed the following correspondence:

- Patron Comment – Great Service from Rich and Jim
- Senator Halpin Award Letter
- Per Capita Aid Award Letter
- Appreciation Letter for Director Campbell from RAILS

Committee Reports:

Finance
President Swanson made a motion to approve the monthly bills in the amount of $51,089.54. Trustee Freiburg seconded. Without further discussion, a roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Freiburg, Hammond, Grandberry-Pugh, Miers, Hanes; Nays: None. Motion carries.

President Swanson provided a recap of the July 9th Finance Committee meeting and recommended everyone take a closer look at the approved minutes for more information. Questions and explanations of the CY 2027 budget were delayed until discussed under New Business.

Art & Facilities – No report.
Personnel & Policy – Committee Chair Freiburg reported that the committee needs an additional member. She also reminded everyone that Director Campbell's evaluation documents would be coming within the next few months.

Planning & Community Relations – Committee Chair Dr. Grandberry Pugh recapped their meeting held in June. There are numerous ways the library can help the parents of school children, such as Parents' Night, with Pizza, to spark conversations on parental techniques; book suggestions for parenting; a monthly program where kids and parents would have separate activities, and an email forum. Director Campbell said staff will tackle some of these items once the Summer Reading Challenge is complete.

Technology Ad-hoc Committee – Director Campbell shared that color printing and faxing were now available at all library locations. Committee Chair Hammond said he would go back and look at the list of technology-related items to determine what would be a good future project.

Foundation Updates -

- Executive Director Lelonek provided Director Campbell an update of the Foundation's activities. Campbell shared that the next Foundation meeting is August 13th at 4pm at the Watts-Midtown Branch. The Reading Garden landscaping is almost complete!
- Food for Thought was very successful and made $9,500.
- Birdies for Charity raised $9,765, and that we're eagerly awaiting to learn more about the bonus.
- The PALS Book Sale is on July 24th and 25th.
- Eudell's BBQ Fundraiser, in support of the Lorene Evans Watts fund is on Saturday, October 10, from noon-3pm in Arts Alley and the Iconic. There will also be a book sale from 10am-2pm in one of the vendor pods. The fundraiser will take place during the Downtown Association's "Second Saturdays" event.
- The Foundation will vote on being the fiscal agent for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Administrator Reports
Director Campbell shared a comprehensive report of the previous month's activities in the board packet, along with statistics.
Milan Blackhawk Area Public Library District meets on July 23rd at the Southwest Branch.

Unfinished Business
Trustee Freiburg made a motion to update library hours to a new schedule, beginning November 2, 2026. Trustee Hammond seconded. Director Campbell explained that this agenda item has been a long time in the making. The Board has reviewed door counts quarterly, ever since the Watts-Midtown Branch opened. The proposed hours reflect how people are currently using the library. Trustee Dr. Grandberry-Pugh shared her concerns about closing an hour earlier at the Watts-Midtown Branch, due to non-profits needing to use the meeting spaces. Marketing Manager Lockheart said she will run a report to find out how many people it affects, but that she doesn't recall many people booking the rooms past 7pm. Director Campbell also stated that the policy allows for people to pay a small fee for after-hours usage. Grandberry-Pugh asked if we were doing this for financial reasons. Director Campbell said that the new hours allow the library to be open 4.5 more hours per week, and that the shift is for the numerous people waiting to get into the Downtown Library in the morning. President Swanson said

that this is something we can try and see how it goes, and that during the winter months, an earlier closing time makes great sense. Grandberry-Pugh said that she's willing to give it a try. With no further discussion, President Swanson took a voice vote. All ayes, motion passes.

Director Campbell reiterated that Dolly Parton's Imagination Library would be discussed at the next Foundation meeting.

New Business

1. President Swanson made a motion to approve submitting the CY 2027 Budget to the City Finance Team. Trustee Meirs seconded. Director Campbell provided explanation that this is the most accurate budget we can submit at this time, due to not knowing the library tax levies for Rock Island or Milan-Blackhawk. The proposed budget currently has three personnel changes: moving a part-time aide to full-time; hiring a full-time technology coordinator; and adding a contracted library social worker position. Without any further discussion, a roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Freiburg, Hammond, Grandberry-Pugh, Miers, Hanes; Nays: None. Motion carries.

2. President Swanson made a motion to accept the State Library Technology Grant contract from the Illinois State Library. Trustee Hammond seconded. Without further discussion, a roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Freiburg, Hammond, Grandberry-Pugh, Miers, Hanes; Nays: None. Motion carries.

3. President Swanson made a motion to approve a Budget Adjustment for CY 2026 in the amount of $94,566.00 to accommodate the State Library Technology Grant funds. Trustee Hammond seconded. Without further discussion, a roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Freiburg, Hammond, Grandberry-Pugh, Miers, Hanes; Nays: None. Motion carries.

4. Trustee Hammond made a motion to approve the proposal from Cordogan Clark for a full building scan–as an add-on to the ongoing Schematic Design process for the Master Plan– in the amount of $9500 plus up to $1000 for reimbursables. Trustee Freiburg seconded. Director Campbell explained that this will help us understand the building and floorplans much better, and will aid in the design process. Without further discussion, a roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Freiburg, Hammond, Grandberry-Pugh, Miers, Hanes; Nays: None. Motion carries.

5. Trustee Hammond made a motion to approve a proposal for shade sails at the Watts-Midtown Library in the amount of $15,840. Trustee Freiburg seconded. President Swanson explained that this was one of the last pieces of the Reading Garden project. The shade will make the patio a more usable space when it's hot outside. Without further discussion, a roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Freiburg, Hammond, Grandberry-Pugh, Miers, Hanes; Nays: None. Motion carries.

6. Trustee Hammond made a motion to approve an MOU from the Illinois State Library to launch a Court Library Access Program at the Rock Island Public Library, if terms are acceptable and viable to staff. Trustee Miers seconded. Director Campbell explained that she and the Adult Services Director had just come from a meeting about the program and are confident the library can handle the workload. With no further discussion, President Swanson took a voice vote. All ayes, motion passes.

7. Trustee Miers made a motion to approve closing all locations on Saturday, December 26, 2026, for the holiday. Trustee Grandberry-Pugh seconded. President Swanson asked if this was a paid holiday and Director Campbell said that, no, it would just be a day we're closed. Since it's Friday, we're only open 3.5 hours, and the day after Christmas is not a busy library day. With no further discussion, President Swanson took a voice vote. All ayes, motion passes.

8. President Swanson told everyone to review Board Committee assignments and to come to the next meeting with their preferences.

Information Sharing

- Unique Management Reports
- Board Standing Committees
- Board Contact Info & Terms

Executive Session – *not needed.*

Announcements

- Next Board Meeting – August 18, 2026 at 5pm, Downtown Library

Trustee Hammond made a motion to adjourn. Director Grandberry-Pugh seconded. With no further discussion, President Swanson took a voice vote. All ayes, motion passes. President Swanson adjourned the meeting at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Campbell, Library Director