

Minutes of the January 27, 2026
RFRR Board Meeting

Lina Eroh began the meeting at 7:36. Lina welcomed the incoming trustees, Joe Lorano and Stephanie Larsen.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda contained the minutes of the December 2025 board meeting and the December 2025 financial statements. Kathleen made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Jan seconded. All approved.

President's Report

Lina thanked the trustees for their contributions to the annual campaign and the completion of their trustee training requirements.

Staff Reports

Director's Report

Chris reported that he would send out trustee education opportunities shortly. The bathroom renovation is going well. They will be completed on time for the annual meeting. Someone has approached the library about doing a podcast using the RyeTV equipment. Chris is reviewing the IMLS grant possibilities for this year to see if one is possible for the library. Chris then went over the 2025 year end statistics. Circulation was up, mostly from digital content. There was no increase in children's fiction circulation despite additional spending. This is perhaps due to the new shelving system by series rather than author. Door count and adult programming were up. There was a question about additional ebooks for children. Hoopla has been reduced because WLS's funding has been reduced. The library buys more print books for children than ebooks.

Adult Services

Catherine reported that the meeting room is being heavily used by the community. The mahjong group is very successful. She asked if any trustees knew a mah jong instructor since an additional one is needed.

Teen Services

Catherine reported that last Friday was a lock-in with laser tag. Forty-eight attended. There is a new policy on checking out board games designed to combat the issue of missing pieces. They now must be checked out even for use in the library and the pieces are checked both at check-out and check-in.

Children's Services

Catherine reported that the read to a dog program called Arf is very popular. Two children at a time can read to a dog for 15 minutes. The American Girl dolls are quite popular. The library now has a version for younger children ages 18 months and up that comes with a board book and fewer parts.

Auxiliary Board

Auxiliary Board Meredythe reported that two chairs have been chosen for Vehicle Fair on May 31. The theme for Novel Night is "Icons Only". They are busy lining up sponsors to front load the fund raising.

Discovery Zone update:

Chris reported that Learn'ique had presented a proposal for monitoring the space, programming and clean up. The library staff member who had been monitoring the space has retired. The Learn'ique proposal would provide a designated staff member trained in early childhood education Monday through Friday from 3:00 to 6:00. This person will maintain order in the space, provide one directed educational activity per day, and reorganize and sanitize the toys and materials daily. The toys would also be checked for damage or missing parts and replaced as needed. A cost for a full year would be \$34,000. A pilot program from now until June would cost \$14,300. A discussion of the proposal ensued. Meredythe commented that it would increase the Auxiliary Board's budget, necessitating more fundraising. The issues that are trying to be resolved include staffing and being able to provide more active engagement and upkeep on the space both cleaning up and replacing broken or missing toys. Lina suggested that a survey be taken after the pilot to decide how it was received. Georgia moved that the Board approve a pilot project from February 2026 to June 2026. Jenny seconded. All approved.

Building Committee

Chris reported that during the security system upgrade it was discovered that window monitors were not working. Securitas suggested that the library switch to motion detectors. They recommended 7 motion detectors but felt 4 could do the job. The board discussed the merits of 7 rather than 4 motion detectors. It was determined that 7 detectors at a cost of \$6,900 would be preferable. Jackie made a motion to use of \$6,900 from Capital Projects to supplement the existing security system upgrade. Jim seconded. All approved.

Finance Committee

Katie reported that Val will be the new treasurer after the annual meeting. The audit kick off meeting went well. She recommended that the library transfer \$100,000 from operating cash on hand to the Capital Projects fund. Emilie so moved. Jan seconded. All approved.

Development Committee

Georgia reported that the 2025 annual fund wrapped up with a total of \$381,000 raised. There were only 74 new friends this year compared to 125 last year. She announced that Emilie will take over Development next year.

Strategic Planning

Lina reported on the highlights of the survey of the board. Strategic planning should start with what the library wants to be in the next 5 years. There was a discussion on the library's mission statement about being a dynamic gathering place for life-long learning. Should the focus be on reading or as a community gathering place. It was suggested that the board should have a retreat to discuss core values.

Mission Moments

Chris reminded all about the annual meeting on February 5 with a conversation with Nathaniel Philbrick, the 2026 Mayor's Award recipient.

There being no further business, Lina called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Val so moved. Georgia seconded. All approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14.