

Minutes of the May 19, 2026 RFRR Board Meeting

Trustees: Lina Eroh, Georgia Dyer, Jan Kelsey, Val Chuebon, John Cocke, Nicole Cunningham, Stephanie Larsen, Joe Lorono, Jennifer McArdle, Jill MacVicar, Diane Martin, Kathleen Riegelhaupt, Jaclyn Shanahan, Duncan Sibson, Jim Steintal, Meredythe Ryan, Bettina Scott Funk

Lina Eroh began the meeting at 7:32. Mayor Josh Nathan was in attendance as a member of the public.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda contained the minutes of the March 2026 board meeting and the March and April 2026 financial statements. Georgia made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Nicole seconded. All approved.

President's Report

Lina presented the trustees' dashboard and reminded trustees about the continuing education requirement including sexual harassment training and completion of the conflict of interest form. She reminded the board that trustee giving was expected. She thanked the trustees for their good attendance record. She pointed out that there was one meeting in June and then the next meeting was in September.

Staff Reports

Director's Report

Chris reported that the new emailing system was in place. He is talking with WLS about some customizable aspects for holds etc. The library had a positive National Library Week hosting the Chamber of Commerce. Chris did a walk through with architect Rex Gedney regarding developing a tween space. Chris then discussed the 2025 NYS Annual Report. The bankruptcy of major book supplier Baker & Taylor impacted the library's acquisitions. Lina called for a motion to approve the 2025 NYS Annual Report. Nicole so moved and Kathleen seconded. All approved.

Chris provided an update on proposed speakers. He is working on a two pronged approach: a major author speaker and also a series of speakers on artificial intelligence in various fields. He is also working on a friends' programming idea for National Library Week with the author of a cocktail cookbook. Chris reported that rather than having a liaison from the City Council, the library will report to the City Council twice a year. This is scheduled for May 27.

Mayor Nathan spoke from the floor and suggested that the report be put off until June 10 when the City Council will again be able to meet in the Council Chamber. This was agreed to.

Chris presented the 2026 Q1 stats. Circulation was up 5% over last year. Card registrations were lower. Outreach plans are in place as a start of the Summer Reading Program and the library will push card registration in September, National Library Card Sign-Up Month. WLS has altered their model with Hoopla affecting the number of borrowers. There was a discussion of Hoopla and ebook usage in general.

Adult Services

Catherine reported that two interns from Rye High School have begun work. They will be doing a 5 week project with the reference collection. She pointed out the current exhibit in the meeting room - the Wisdom Gallery.

Teen Services

Catherine reported that there would be a tween program in June using STEM kits. Sarah will start her visits to the elementary schools talking about moving up to the Teen Room. Another SAT prep program was held. Catherine displayed the Fairy Free Library that Sarah had built.

Children's Services

Catherine reported that the librarians are assisting the fifth graders from Midland and Milton with their capstone projects. The staff helps with book selection and the books are then checked out and delivered to the school. Summer Reading Program materials will be out soon. The Summer Reading Video was shown. The theme this year is "Unearth a Story". The video will be shown at the schools and then be available online.

Auxiliary Board

Bettina reported that the Vehicle Fair is less than two weeks away. There will be new art trucks and some trucks will do demonstrations this year. The surprise concert will be "K Pop Demon Hunters". The fund raising goal for the event is \$35,000. There are three chairs for the Book Sale in September. They are Denise Plimpton, Caroline Kehoe and Sam Brunten. The Book Sale is scheduled for September 18 - 20, a little later than last year because of the holiday schedule. Meredythe reported that there are already eight parties set for Novel Night. They still need 2-3 more parties. There will be a cocktail party for the hosts as a rally for them as well as providing information.

Development

Georgia reported that the committee had met and reviewed the Annual Campaign process. Chris asked if the trustees could send him any information they had about planned or month giving.

Strategic Planning

Jim reported that an RFP had been sent out to five consultants and responses had been received from three. The committee interviewed all three consultants. The committee recommends that the library retain The LEO Group. Jenny moved that the Board approve a contract with The LEO Group to develop a living strategic framework with a not to exceed budget of \$50,000, to be paid from designated funds. Jan seconded. All approved.

Mission Moments

Chris reminded the board about the kick off for the Summer Reading Program on June 13 - a dinosaur scavenger hunt.

There being no further business, Lina called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Georgia so moved. Meredythe seconded. All approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56.

Action : The Board approve the May meeting minutes