

Minutes of the December 16, 2025 RFRR Board Meeting

Trustees: Lina Eroh, Georgia Dyer, Jan Kelsey, Val Chuebon, Jackie Cohen, Nicole Cunningham, Jennifer McArdle, Jill MacVicar, Diane Martin, Emilie Reddoch, Kathleen Riegelhaupt, Jaclyn Shanahan, Jim Steinthal, Emily Tisdale, Meredythe Ryan, Bettina Scott Funk

Lina Eroh began the meeting at 7:36. Lina welcomed Josh Nathan, the liaison from the City Council.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda contained the minutes of the October 2025 board meeting, the October and November 2025 financial statements, and the list of 12 new members of the Auxiliary Board. Nicole made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Kathleen seconded. All approved.

President's Report

Lina expressed her gratitude to the Board for its support and advocacy for the library. The library has exceeded the annual campaign goal. She reminded the board that all trustee education including sexual harassment prevention training needed to be completed by December 31. She informed the Board that the NYS Regents are considering amendments regarding policies and review times. The library already has the policies and review timelines in place. The official vote on the city budget is tomorrow evening. She requested that Board members attend the meeting to support the library.

Staff Reports

Director's Report

Chris reported that he is working on the launch of the Libconnect Pro software to replace Constant Comment. He has had a conversation with the high school principal about working together on projects. The library recently hosted the Spelling Bee and participated in the "Season of Giving" with the Historical Society. Forty families attended the Friends' Open House. The staff has undergone training in emergency

procedures based on the updated library policy. The bathroom renovation project has begun. The bathroom have been stripped down to the studs. Chris needs the names of HVAC companies to get quotes.

Adult Services

Catherine reported that there were carolers and the staff had 4 crafts at the Friends' Open House. This coming Saturday there will be a pop-up craft project to make diffusers. The cookbook club is growing. Between 12 and 18 people usually attend. Next Monday is the cookie exchange.

Teen Services

Catherine reported that lock-ins continue to be popular. Over forty have registered for the annual gingerbread house contest. Sara visited the high school and middle school and conducted a virtual escape room on a computer.

Children's Services

Catherine reported that there are lots of activities planned for the holiday break. The library now has American Girl dolls that circulate. Catherine gave an update on the Discovery Zone. The caretakers are bonding. There have already been 2 parties in the library. Clean up has been going better. The caregivers are helping one another.

Auxiliary Board

Meredythe reported that there will be 3 co-chairs for Novel Night this year. They will decided on a theme in January. They plan to frontload the fundraising in the beginning of the year as they did with Casino Night this year. Bettina reported that the 12 new members will join the board in January.

Building Committee

Chris reported that the committee reviewed all the quotes for the bathroom renovation and chose AG Premium. The work has begun and should take no more than 6 weeks to complete.

Development Committee

Georgia reported that the library had hit the goal of \$320,000. The donor list has been updated and she has sample drafts for contacts.

Heritage Committee

Jan proposed best selling author Nathaniel Philbrick as the 2025 recipient of the Mayor's Award. A moderator for the conversation has yet to be determined. She requested a motion to approve Nathaniel Philbrick as the 2025 recipient of the Mayor's Award. Nicole so moved. Jan seconded. All approved.

Nominating Committee

Lina reported that Matt is rolling off the Board and had been asked for a recommendation for a representative from the Osborn. Stephanie Larsen, a lawyer at the Osborn, grew up in Rye and has accepted the opportunity to be on the Board. This brings the Board to a total of 21. Jan moved to approve the slate of Trustees for the class of 2029. Kathleen seconded. All approved. Jan then moved to approve the slate of officers for 2026. Valerie seconded. All approved.

Mission Moments

Chris reported that the historic miniature program is very popular. It is being extended to fourth and fifth grades as well. Cooking with Kids program is doing back-to-back sessions because it is so popular. Rye Rev 250 is presenting a talk by Lear Beyer on Loyalists in Rye.

Lina thanked Chris and Catherine for all their hard work this year. There being no further business, she called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Emilie so moved. Jackie seconded. All approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24.

Action : The Board approve the December meeting minutes

December Financials

The December financials shows a very good year for the library.

In revenue, the Annual Campaign more than made up for the slight decrease in Misc revenue. The Osborn is mostly a timing issue.

In expenses, the budget is slightly under. There was an overage in print and av, offset by the under-spending in digital and periodicals. The adult staff are continuing to redo the periodical collections to eliminate EBSCO as a vendor, as when a magazine goes out of print, they substitute a "similar" publications, but the library has no control over the substitute titles.

Operations is slightly under budget as well. The lack of equipment purchases offset the overage in supplies.

In building operations, heating is below budget, but that might be due to a timing issue with Con-Ed. With the capital projects transfer backed out, building operations are under budget overall.

In personnel, while salaries are over budget, that is offset through the projections for healthcare and retirement coming in under expectations. The library also received a significant rebate for not having any workman's comp claims, and that offset the other insurance line.

On the endowment report, the \$100,000 transfer to operating is reflected on that page, as well as the income and expense report.

Action : The Board accept the December financial statements
