

**RICE LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF**

November 12, 2024

Rice Lake Public Library

2 E. Marshall St., Rice Lake, WI 54868

**Members Present:** Abbey Fischer, Melissa Kozma, Amanda Morey, Marsha Scherz, Gina Sookiayak, and Jane Thompson

**Members Absent:** Chris Fitzgerald, Bun Hanson

**Others Present:** Rachel Thomas, Library Director and Shelby Friendshuh, Library Public Services Director

**Call to Order:** Abbey Fischer called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

**Public Appearances:** None

**Approval of the October 2024 Meeting Minutes:** Gina Sookiayak motioned to approve the minutes, and Jane Thompson seconded the motion.

**Review and Approval of Bills from October 2024:** Gina motioned to approve the bills, and Jane seconded the motion. Roll call vote: unanimous approval.

**Review of Financial Statements from October 2024:** Director Thomas reported that the library is right on track with revenue, expenses, and needs at this time.

**Review of Library Statistics:** Main Street trick or treat was a huge success with over 2600 attendees! Library programs with high engagement included The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald: the ship, the storm, and the song with 64 participants; Halloween Storytime with 87; Explore & Create with 53; Author Ben Heer with 31; and Pokémon Club with 30 attendees respectively. Current library circulation and visiting trends compared to October 2023 include material check outs at an increase of 3% from this time last year; a 21% increase in visitors; and a 28% increase in computer sessions.

**Review of Library Director's Report:** Upcoming library programming includes "The Boys of Winter", a presentation by Bill Jamerson on November 12, and a special Thankful-themed storytime on November 26. Director Thomas shared that the library's 2025 budget has been approved by Rice Lake City Council. The Barron County Board of Supervisors approved an Act 150 reimbursement rate of

78%, reinstating their library service plan.

**Friends of the Rice Lake Public Library updates:** The annual public meeting of the RLPL Friends of the Library board meeting takes place Monday, January 20. There will be a short business meeting at 6:30 pm, followed by a speaker at 7:00 pm.

**Annual Library Director Review Process:** The board will use the same evaluation process as last year, this time overseen by RLPL Board President Abbey Fischer. Questionnaires will go out to all library staff to be completed this month, including a self-evaluation by Director Thomas. The library board will conduct a review and evaluation of this information at our December 2024 meeting, and share our conclusions with Director Thomas.

**Brief 6: 2025 Library Closures:** Melissa Kozma motioned to approve the 2025 dates for library closures; the motion was seconded by Marsha Scherz. Roll call vote: unanimous approval.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm by Abbey Fischer. Motion to approve by Gina, seconded by Amanda Morey.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees is scheduled for December 10, 2024.  
Minutes prepared by Melissa M. Kozma.