

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

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Rice Lake Public Library

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

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

**Members Absent:** Marsha Scherz. Chris Fitzgerald has resigned from the Board.

**Others Present:** Rachel Thomas, Library Director

**Call to Order:** Abbey Fischer called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

**Public Appearances:** None

**Approval of the April 2025 Meeting Minutes:** Bun Hanson made a motion to approve the minutes; Jane Thompson seconded the motion.

**Approval of Bills from April 2025:** Bun Hanson made a motion to approve the bills; Melissa Kozma seconded the motion. Roll call vote: unanimous approval.

Gina Sookiayak arrived at 4:19 pm.

**Review of Financial Statements from April 2025:** According to Director Thomas's records, we are on track with spending at this point in the year. The Board expressed concern about the ongoing lateness (and sometimes incompleteness) of financial reports and vouchers from the City of Rice Lake. While we are fortunate that Director Thomas keeps such detailed records, receiving these documents in a timely manner from the city is crucial in ensuring prudent and accurate budgeting. The Board made a plan to contact the city for specifics of when and how this will be remedied.

**Review of Library Statistics:** April visitor counts were not accurate due to the door counter being out of commission for 18 days of the month. We are seeing some decrease in checkouts, but that is true for our across our library system. Out of all 55 libraries in the system, the RLPL is ranked #7 for checkouts, up from #8 last year at this time! 114 new patrons were added in April. 498 items were added to the collection, including long-awaited items that had been

backordered, and 741 computer sessions were logged in April as well.

**Review of Library Director's Report:** April highlights included the Spring Wellness event featuring local organizations and speakers, and the ADRC Growing Connections group, which had 28 participants. Lego Club, Pizza and Taco Book Club, Explore & Create, and especially the Pokémon Trainer Club continue to be very popular!

**Friends of the Rice Lake Public Library updates:** FoL Board member Jane Lillegard and Public Services Director Shelby Friendshuh met with Mark Trapani of Sterling Bank to review and record a radio ad they wrote for the Friends of the Library annual fundraising drive, highlighting the funding of the Imagination Library. The ad played on local radio stations throughout the month of April, and a print ad ran in the Rice Lake Chronotype mid-April.

**Discussion: Review of board terms, officer roles, and a vacancy**

Some adjustments must be made to the makeup of the Library Board, due to resignations and shifting roles in members' involvement in Rice Lake City Council and the Barron County Board of Supervisors. Melissa Kozma agreed to another term, but there will be at least two vacancies come July that require further exploration and discussion.

**Adjournment:** Gina Sookiayak made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Bun Hanson seconded the motion. Abbey Fischer adjourned the meeting at 5:20pm.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2025.

Minutes prepared by Melissa M. Kozma.