

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

Tuesday, June 9th, 2026

Rice Lake Public Library

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

Members Present: Pat Edwardsen, Abbey Fischer, Melissa Kozma, Jeff Miller, Vicky Ondell, Marsha Scherz, and Gina Sookiayak

Members Absent: Kyle Polzin

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

Call to Order: Vice President Marsha Scherz called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Public Appearances: None

Approval of the May 2026 Meeting Minutes: Gina Sookiayak made a motion to approve the minutes; motion seconded by Pat Edwardsen.

Review and Approval of May 2026 Bills: Melissa Kozma made a motion to approve the bills; Gina Sookiayak seconded the motion. Roll call vote: unanimous approval by all board members present.

Review of May 2026 Financial Statements: Rachel contacted the City's outside auditor regarding some unexpected changes in interest revenue amounts, and received the reply that interest revenue amounts are subject to change. In addition, some April 2025 charges showed up in 2026; in 2025 those April charges were charged and then credited, so at that time it looked like the Library hadn't paid anything that month of 2025. These charges on the 2026 budget may be related as a way to correct the 2025 budget. Director Thomas contacted City administration for clarification, but has not yet received feedback. The library's budget expenditures are on track this month.

Review of May 2026 Library Statistics: The RLPL saw a decrease of 12% in checkouts compared with May of last year, and a decrease of 17% in library visitors. Other libraries in our system are seeing an average decrease of 5% in checkouts this May. The RLPL had an average of 31 visitors per hour and 300 visitors per day this month. Use of the outdoor locker for checking out materials is on the rise, with 86 checkouts for May.

Review of Library Director's Report: May program highlights included a Migratory Bird Day

celebration with the Nature Doc Conservancy, Antique Appraisals with Mark Moran, and a visit by the Viola Czech Youth Choir. With recent rainstorms, library staff have noted water coming into the building again, possibly through one of the windows. Director Thomas will be looking into how to get this fixed. Megan Katcher has been hired as the new Temporary Part-Time Library Assistant for the summer, and started work on June 1. The RLPL Community Survey is now live and available through the end of July, both online and in print.

Friends of the Rice Lake Public Library updates: The Friends met in June and reviewed Board Officer positions. Fundraising efforts include running the Golden K food truck at concerts in the park.

RLPL Board of Trustees Appointments update: The Barron County Board of supervisors appointed Jeff Miller, and Rice Lake City Council appointed Kyle Polzin. A warm welcome to our new Board members!

Review of Board Officer Roles: Abbey Fischer will continue as President, Gina Sookiyak will be Vice President, and Melissa Kozma will continue as Secretary. Marsha Scherz is stepping down from the Board as well her position as Vice President. We thank her for her steadfast service!

Adjournment: Vicky Ondell made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Gina Sookiyak seconded the motion. Marsha Scherz adjourned the meeting at 5:13 pm.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, July 14th, 2026.
Minutes prepared by Melissa M. Kozma.