

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

Tuesday, July 14th, 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, Kyle Polzin, Andrea Thompson, and Gina Sookiayak

Members Absent: None

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 June 2026 Meeting Minutes: Vicky Ondell made a motion to approve the minutes, and Pat Edwardsen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Review and Approval of June 2026 Bills: Vicky Ondell made a motion to approve the bills; Kyle Polzin seconded the motion. Roll call vote: unanimous approval by all board members present.

Review of June 2026 Financial Statements: Director Thomas reports that 2026 budget spending is on track, with about 50% of budget spent down at this point in the year.

Review of June 2026 Library Statistics: The RLPL had an average of 41 visitors per hour, and 398 visits per day in June. There was an average of 37 items checked out per hour.

Review of Library Director's Report: The Lunch Bunch program is very well attended, with about 100 children and teens served per session. Many thanks to the Elks for sponsoring this program! Other June program highlights included a Rice Lake Airport tour, and The Bubble Lady children's program. Both children and adults have been really involved the Community-wide Summer Reading Challenge. Participants are well on their way to reaching a shared goal of 250,000 minutes of reading this summer. On June 16th, Director Thomas gave a well-received presentation at the Rice Lake Men's Club.

A warm welcome to our newest Library Board member Andrea Thompson, representing the

Rice Lake Area School District.

Friends of the Rice Lake Public Library updates: The Friends did not meet this month.

Discussion, Board Composition and Review of Trustee Bylaws: Following recent City Council elections, we currently have two City Council members on the Library Board. According to Chapter 43 and City Ordinances, we cannot have more than one voting member who concurrently sits on City Council. Gina Sookiayak has graciously agreed to step down from the Library Board at this time, and we will miss her insightful participation dearly. Many thanks to Gina for her years of steadfast service on the Library Board.

Discussion, 2027 Budget Schedule: Director Thomas presented a plan for the Board to assist in reviewing, revising, and approving 2027 Library Budget documents before they are presented to City Council in November, and to approve any updates to the Budget as required by City Council.

Adjournment: Abbey Fischer adjourned the meeting at 6:08 pm.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, August 11th at 4:00pm.

Minutes prepared by Melissa M. Kozma.