

Rockford Public Library
Policies & Services Committee
August 11, 2026
Boardroom, Main Library, 215 N. Wyman St.

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Molly Brauns, Stephanie Nissen, Dennis Horton

Committee Members Absent: Janet Moore

Staff Present: Anthony Cortez, Anne O'Keefe, Brook Loomis, Bridget Finn

1. Vice President Brauns called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Dennis Horton arrived at 4:06pm and a quorum was present. No action was taken prior to Dennis Horton's arrival.
2. There were no public speakers present.
3. Library Statistics: Executive Director Cortez introduced July stats to the committee. Turn-Over rates from June 2025-June 2026 were also discussed.
4. Local Author Book Sales in Collection Spaces [discussion]: Executive Director Anthony Cortez presented a memo to the committee in response to a request from Trustee Paul Logli to research the process other libraries use to host Local Author Book Sales. Discussion followed. Trustee Nissen requested Director Cortez reach out to other Illinois Library Directors to get their insight as well. No action was taken.
5. RPL Foundation Report: Director of Development Brook Loomis reported the Foundation will be hosting 2 events-Fall Art Scene in October and the return of a Dicken's Christmas Carol during Stroll on State which was cancelled last year due to weather. To date the Foundation and Development have contributed \$359,335.00 to RPL, with an anticipated additional \$34K by years end. Future funding and marketing tools for the AOHS program was also discussed.
6. Old Business: Vice President Molly Brauns proposed a new meeting time of 4:00 p.m. for the Policies and Services Committee. Discussion followed. A final vote will be taken at the next meeting and presented to the Board for approval.
7. New Business: Vice President Brauns shared information regarding Illinois House Bill 5236- Digital Library Protection Act. The Bill stops e-book publishers from imposing unfair licensing terms, inflated pricing, and restrictive lending rules on public libraries. The Bill has passed in the House and is waiting for Senate approval. Discussion followed.

Vice President Brauns asked the Director Cortez to be prepared to report on the progress of the Strategic Plan at next month's meeting.

8. Staff Reports-Vice President Brauns spoke highly of the Staff Reports.
9. With a motion from Dennis Horton and a second from Stephanie Nissen, Vice President Brauns adjourned the meeting at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Pat Muzzarelli