

Rockford Public Library
Policies & Services Committee
September 8, 2026
Boardroom, Main Library, 215 N. Wyman St.

MINUTES

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

Committee Members Absent:

Staff Present: Anthony Cortez, Anne O'Keefe, Andrew Fischer, Erin Birdsong

1. Vice President Brauns called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. There were no public speakers present.
3. Library Statistics: Executive Director Cortez introduced August stats to the committee. Turn-Over rates from June 2025-June 2026 were also discussed.
4. Affirm Policies 5.1, 5.1 Appendix, 5.2, 5.3 [action]: Executive Director Anthony Cortez provided the committee with information from 5 additional Illinois Libraries regarding Local Author Book Sales in collection spaces. Their policies align with RPL, and sales are only allowed in meeting rooms. Discussion followed. A motion to affirm policies 5.1, 5.1 Appendix, 5.2 and 5.3 was made by Stephanie Nissen and seconded by Dennis Horton. The motion passed with a unanimous Voice Vote.
5. Summer Reading Report – Erin Birdsong [discussion]: East Branch Manager Erin Birdsong presented a final Summer Reading Challenge report summarizing the increase in participants from 2024-2026, and the changes made to the SRC program that helped to grow the participation rates. Discussion followed.
6. Strategic Plan Update [discussion]: Executive Director Cortez updated the committee on the status of the plan. Informational documents as well as questions for conversations in the community will be added to My Board Packet for the Trustees to utilize.
7. RPL Foundation Report: No Report
8. Staff Reports: Executive Director Cortez encouraged the committee to read the staff reports noting many new programs.
9. Old Business: Vice President Molly Brauns asked about the land behind the library and when the landscaping would take place. Vice President Brauns also reminded the committee that the Executive Director annual review is coming up. Director Cortez informed the committee that he spoke with Senator Stadelman regarding HB 5236.
10. New Business: None
11. 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