

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL – 6:30 p.m. by President Angle. Gipson, Christianson, Miller, Cooper, Meshes, Bunton, and Director Komala present.

INPUT FROM CITIZENS – Bridgett Kaiser, Adult and Technical Services Manager, and Kelly Johnson, Youth Services Manager, present.

CORRESPONDENCE AND LIBRARY NEWS – All Correspondence discussed.

- 1) IMRF Final Notice of Contribution Rates for Calendar Year 2026 – Komala stated employer contribution rate decreased from 11.19% to 9.99%.
- 2) IDOR Memo: 2026 CPI – Komala stated CPI decreased from 2.9% to 2.7%. Benchmark wage increases are set to be higher than CPI for another year or two, and the Library's most recent levy increase was less than CPI.
- 3) McHenry County Levy Confirmation for Tax Year 2025
- 4) Attorney Memo: Recent Amendments to OMA and FOIA
- 5) Colley Elevator Co. Memo: Anticipated Elevator Safety Code Change re: Door Lock Monitoring – Komala will reach out to Colley to check the Library's status and get information for budgeting purposes.

Komala noted the three following news articles are all related to the announcement by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) that it had reinstated all the agency's grants, including those to libraries and library organizations across the country.

- 6) ALA: Court Permanently Blocks Trump's Executive Order to Dismantle Federal Agency for America's Libraries
- 7) PW: IMLS Restores Competitive Grant Funding
- 8) ALA Welcomes Reinstatement of All Federal IMLS Grants to Libraries

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Items to be included in Consent Agenda
 - a) November 2025 Financial Reports, Disbursements, and Transfer of Funds of \$39,565
 - b) December 2025 Financial Reports, Disbursements, and Transfer of Funds of up to \$41,300
 - c) Minutes from the October 21, 2025, Regular Board Meeting
- 2) Consent Agenda Approval (voice vote) – Meshes moved to approve. Bunton seconded. Roll call vote. All ayes.

SPECIAL REPORTS / DISCUSSION

- 1) Trustee Liaisons – Miller asked about staffing changes in Adult Services. Bunton updated the board on staff appreciation events in the next few months and asked trustees for help assembling the packages and for ideas to celebrate the staff on National Library Workers Day. Komala noted that the Library has received donations to cover the cost of staff appreciation events and items.
- 2) Library Director + District Calendar
- 3) Youth Services – Komala praised Johnson for reaching out to the Chicago Wolves' Read to Succeed program for Winter Reading Challenge youth prizes.
- 4) Adult Services – Kaiser highlighted the new hutch that will house the local history collection. The hutch was donated, but professional movers were hired to bring it into the Library. Gipson enjoyed the lanyards being given out to new child cardholders.
- 5) IT Services
- 6) Mobile App

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (all possible action items)

- 1) Per Capita Grant: 2024 Expenditure Report & 2026 Application – Komala noted the 2024 Expenditure Report & 2026 Application were submitted on December 2, 2025 and both received and accepted on December 12, 2025. The Library generally receives an award letter in July and a

FOX RIVER GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Library, 407 Lincoln Avenue, Fox River Grove

check in August.

- 2) Public Act 101-0221: Annual Sexual Harassment Prevention Training – Augle, Bunton, and Cooper still need to complete the training. Komala will email trustees the training slideshow from the Illinois Department of Human Resources again. Trustees are to complete the training and return the completion certificate to Komala.
- 3) Recommendations for Closed Session Minutes – Bunton and Augle reviewed the closed session minutes. Bunton moved to open the closed session minutes from the meeting on February 18, 2025. Meshes seconded. Roll call vote. All ayes.

NEW BUSINESS (all possible action items)

- 1) 2026 Statements of Economic Interests – On January 6, 2026 Komala confirmed with McHenry County the names of who needs to file a Statement of Economic Interests. Trustees should receive a first email from the County Clerk's office on February 2, 2026. Reminders will be emailed every other week until completed. Forms must be submitted by May 1, 2026, to avoid penalties.
- 2) RG Asphalt & Concrete: Estimate for 2026 Parking Lot Sealcoat – Bunton moved to approve. Christianson seconded. Roll call vote. All ayes.
- 3) Plan Annual Review of Library Director – Komala passed out blank director evaluation forms to the trustees. Trustees will meet in closed session at the February 17, 2026 meeting to discuss Komala's performance and compensation. Miller will provide Bunton with his notes and comments as he will not be at the February meeting.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS – Cooper inquired about the Palace Project app. Kaiser said staff can help download the app and remove the old Boundless app. Brief discussion was held of ordering new books now that Baker and Taylor has closed their operations. Johnson is testing out Ingram for youth books. Ingram's ordering model wasn't working for Kaiser, so she continues to use Amazon for book orders in the meantime. Both departments order DVDs via Amazon. Miller loved all the pictures in the packet. Bunton requested that Komala provide her with the secretary's comments for the February 17, 2026, meeting in Miller's absence. Miller noted the next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Library. An executive session is planned for the annual evaluation of the Library Director.

ADJOURNMENT – Bunton moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Meshes seconded. All in favor. All ayes.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 6:30 pm at the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Augle, President

Stephen Miller, Secretary