

MINUTES
PARK RIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Held at the Park Ridge Public Library
20 S. Prospect Avenue
Park Ridge, IL 60068
January 20, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

President Renaldi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Trustees Present: Anita DeFrank, Michael Donahue, Kevin Haggerty, Danielle Powers, Theresa Renaldi, Gregg Rusk, Deepika Thiagarajan (7:04pm)
Trustees Absent: Briana Jarnagin, Josh Kiem
Others Present: Joanna Bertucci, Library Director, Angela Berger, Lauren Bochat, Laura Scott, Joan Wrenn; Library Staff

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

HVAC PROJECT UPDATE

President Renaldi stated that Jim Gibson from Elara Engineering was scheduled to attend tonight's meeting to provide a project update but will be unable to attend due to illness. Director Bertucci will provide an update during her director's report.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Renaldi directed the Board's attention to the list of items on the Consent Agenda and stated that if a trustee(s) would like an item removed from Consent, the item will be removed for further discussion after the Consent Agenda is approved. No requests were made for removal of items from Consent.

The following items are included on the Consent Agenda:

- Approval of Minutes of the December 16, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Library Board
- Ratify Bills Payable Warrant Register Period 12, December 16, 2025, in the amount of \$153,894.27 and Period 12, December 30, 2025, in the amount of \$201,228.05
- Approve Cash Statement for all accounts for December 2025
- Ratify disbursements from the Gift Fund, \$17.00
- Rescind the "Paging Patrons" policy

Trustee Rusk made a **motion**

MOTION: To approve the Consent Agenda

Vice President Powers seconded the motion

Roll Call Vote: Yes: DeFrank, Donahue, Haggerty, Powers, Renaldi, Rusk

Absent: Jarnagin, Kiem, Thiagarajan

Motion passed

TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer Donahue directed the Board's attention to page 8 of the packet and the Consolidated YTD Revenue and Expenditures Report for FY25 Period 12. Treasurer Donahue noted that total expenditures are at 90% of the YTD budget. A deficit spend of approximately \$3million is being shown due to the fact that second installment property taxes have not yet been received and recorded.

Director Bertucci stated that in discussions with City Manager Gilmore and City Finance Director Lipman, Director Bertucci was assured that the City has adequate funds available if a transfer to the Library would be necessary, given a prolonged time frame for the County's distribution of funds.

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Treasurer Donahue made a **motion**

MOTION: To approve the Consolidated Year to Date Revenue and Expenditures Report for FY25 Period 12, December 2025

President Renaldi seconded the motion

Roll Call Vote: Yes: DeFrank, Donahue, Haggerty, Powers, Renaldi, Rusk, Thiagarajan
Absent: Jarnagin, Kiem

Motion passed

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Renaldi expressed her thanks to Director Bertucci and library staff for their efforts last week at keeping the Board and community apprised of closures necessitated by issues associated with the gas main replacement.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

In Secretary Kiem's absence, Trustee DeFrank directed the Board's attention to each of the PRPL website and press articles included in the Secretary's report on page 10 of the packet.

Director Bertucci directed the Board's attention to the press article regarding the new state law requiring public libraries in Illinois to stock Narcan. She was one of the area directors contacted by the press regarding this change and she provided background information on what PRPL had done to be ready for the new requirements, including staff training that was conducted. She expressed her opinion that this was a good public awareness piece regarding the new law and the library's compliance.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Bertucci provided highlights from the Director's Report beginning on page 12 of the packet and noted the following:

- Distribution of Cook County property tax receipts to taxing bodies continues to be delayed. The City of Park Ridge has received a small distribution but to date, the County has been unable to provide information with regard to what levy(ies) the distributions made pertain to. Director Bertucci has contacted both the Cook County Treasurer's office and Cook County Board commissioners with regard to the delay.
City Finance Director Chris Lipman has assured Director Bertucci that funding for the library's operations is not in jeopardy during this delay. As a city library, funds for both the city and the library are comingled and the City has adequate reserves to cover any shortfalls in this interim period.
- Director Bertucci provided an update on the issues experienced in the building since the gas meter replacement which occurred on January 14, 2026. She detailed the gas leaks that had occurred as a result of the meter replacement and the related building closures that were required as a precautionary measure. She noted that in each instance, the issues were addressed and necessary repairs were made to the HVAC infrastructure. Director Bertucci is currently investigating the possibility of using insurance coverage for the costs of the repairs/outages.
- The Winter Reading program is currently underway and will continue through February 1st

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT

Director Bertucci reported that the Friends did not submit a report this month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

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President Renaldi noted that there four items of new business on the agenda.
The first order of business is approval of the Public Access Computers policy, as revised. Changes to policy language that were made after discussion at the January 13, 2026 COW meeting were noted.

Trustee Thiagarajan made a **motion**

MOTION: To approve the Public Access Computers policy, as revised

President Renaldi seconded the motion

Roll Call Vote: Yes: DeFrank, Donahue, Haggerty, Powers, Renaldi, Rusk, Thiagarajan
Absent: Jarnagin, Kiem

Motion passed

Approval of the Public Internet Access policy, as revised, is the next order of business. Changes to the wording of item #4 was noted.

President Renaldi made a **motion**

MOTION: To approve the Public Internet Access policy, as revised

Vice President Powers seconded the motion

Roll Call Vote: Yes: DeFrank, Donahue, Haggerty, Powers, Renaldi, Rusk, Thiagarajan
Absent: Jarnagin, Kiem

Motion passed

Approval of the Artwork Loans policy is required prior to approval of the Kujack loan to the Kalo Foundation. Changes and additions to the policy language were reviewed. Director Bertucci noted that she made revisions based on the conversation at the COW meeting and forwarded the revised policy to trustees Powers and DeFrank for their review prior to tonight's meeting.

President Renaldi made a **motion**

MOTION: To approve the Artwork Loans policy, as revised

Trustee DeFrank seconded the motion

Roll Call Vote: Yes: DeFrank, Donahue, Haggerty, Powers, Renaldi, Rusk, Thiagarajan
Absent: Jarnagin, Kiem

Motion passed

APPROVAL OF LOAN OF KUPJACK MINIATURE TO THE KALO FOUNDATION

This proposed loan was discussed at the January 13, 2026 COW meeting and is now being considered given the revisions to the Artwork Loans policy, just approved. Changes to the Artwork Loan Agreement were also discussed at the COW and those proposed changes have been made and are reflected in red on page 24 of the packet.

Trustee Thiagarajan made a **motion**

MOTION: To approve a loan of the Kupjack Miniature to the Kalo Foundation under the terms detailed in the Artwork Loan Agreement.

President Renaldi seconded the motion

Roll Call Vote: Yes: DeFrank, Donahue, Haggerty, Powers, Renaldi, Rusk, Thiagarajan
Absent: Jarnagin, Kiem

Motion passed

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ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Rusk made a

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting

Trustee DeFrank seconded the motion

Voice Vote: Yes: All in favor

Motion passed

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

