

**NIPPERSINK PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2025; MINUTES
at the Library 5418 Hill Rd, Richmond, IL**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Trustees of Nippersink Public Library District at the Nippersink Library called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Knobloch.

PRESENT

President Drew Knobloch, Vice-President Brett Bieder, Trustees Theresa Sue Rekenhalter, Heather Evenson, Michelle Jordan, Jean Leete-Knutson, Keith Schleiffer, and Library Director were present.

RECOGNITION OF SECRETARY

Trustee Evenson was recognized as secretary. Staff member Nielson volunteered to act as recorder.

RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE

Yoni Nielson, Assistant to the Director
Ash Lee Simons, Youth Services Manager
Kristine Ozyuk, Adult Services and Circulation Manager

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

None.

ADDITIONS

None.

MINUTES

- a. Approve September 9, 2025, Public Hearing Notice on Ordinance 2025-9-1 Minutes
Motion was made by Trustee Bieder, Second by Trustee Evenson, to approve the September 9, 2025, Public Hearing Notice on Ordinance 20259-1 Minutes.
Voice Vote: All in Favor
MOTION PASSES

- b. Approve September 9, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
Motion was made by Trustee Schleiffer, Second by Trustee Leete-Knutson, to approve the September 9, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.
Voice Vote: All in Favor
MOTION PASSES

CORRESPONDENCE AND LIBRARY NEWS

a. Articles & News

- i. Federal Funding for Libraries in Illinois
- ii. Illinois Public Libraries by the Numbers FY2022
- iii. Courts Rules in Favor of County Board on OMA Challenge – Ancel Glink
- iv. Charges brought in WI regarding an Unlawful Record of Closed Meeting – Ancel Glink
- v. Illinois' Federal Court Applies Lindke Test in Social Media Lawsuit – Ancel Glink
- vi. Update from ALA Leadership
- vii. Illinois Literacy Fall 2025
- viii. How the 2025 Government Shutdown Will Impact Libraries

b. Trustee Training

- i. Robert's Rules of Order – No Minutes.
- ii. ILA Annual Conference

Trustee Jordan:

She attended a session on social media led by our library's attorneys. The focus was on what libraries legally can and cannot delete from comment sections—since removing comments could be seen as limiting someone's freedom of speech. The session also touched on AI, emphasizing that it's here to stay and that legal frameworks are still being developed around its use.

Trustee Leete-Knutson:

Jean attended a session on managing problematic trustees. She learned that since trustees are elected officials, they generally cannot be removed unless they've missed an entire year of meetings or are convicted of something illegal.

Trustee Schleiffer:

Keith attended a discussion on book bans and challenges. He shared that libraries must represent all viewpoints—not just one person's perspective. He highlighted that libraries should have something for everyone and that if a patron doesn't like a certain book, staff can help them find one that aligns better with their interests. He referenced the idea of books being mirrors, windows, and sliding glass doors—mirrors that reflect ourselves, windows that let us see others, and sliding glass doors that allow readers to step into another point of view.

Trustee Rekenthaler:

Sue loved a session called Spicing It Up on passive programming. Each month, libraries provided patrons with a spice and a recipe tied to a cultural holiday or book theme, along with educational information about the spice. She also mentioned Aurora Voices, a program where the Aurora Public Library interviews diverse community members monthly, culminating in a year-end panel discussion and Q&A.

President Knobloch:

Drew focused on inclusivity, emphasizing that it begins behind the scenes with policies and bylaws. He encouraged us to regularly review those documents to ensure they reflect the diversity of the people we serve. He also highlighted the importance of offering a wide range of programs to support inclusivity in practice.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- a. Review and Approve Warrant #4* in the amount of \$139,643.80

Motion was made by Trustee Bieder, Second by Trustee Rekenthaler to approve the Warrant #4 in the amount of \$139,643.80.

Roll call Vote: Ayes: Knobloch, Bieder, Rekenthaler, Schleiffer, Leete-Knutson, Jordan, Evenson.

Nays: None.

MOTION PASSES

- b. Review monthly budget report

SPECIAL REPORTS

Library Director

Director Fanslow updated the Board on Library operations. A representative from Lauterbach & Amen will provide a summary of the completed FY24–25 audit at the December Board meeting. Baker & Taylor is officially closing, and for now, the Library's primary vendor will be Amazon. Baker & Taylor's Boundless app will cease operation in November and will be replaced by the Palace Project. The new mobile app is up and running. Volunteers will be sought for the upcoming Book Sale in December. The roof project has been completed, and the window replacement project will begin the second week of November and continue through December 18. The parking lot has been re-stripped by the new landscaping company, and Benson Electric has replaced the time clock for the parking lot lights. Five dead trees and two shrub weeds have been removed, and pruning and cleanup have been completed. A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is scheduled for February 11 from 5–7 p.m.

Library Board President

President Knobloch's online report to the Board was discussed.

Strategic Planning

Tabled until the next Board meeting.

Adult Services

Ozyuk reported that the Circulation team is ready to register patrons for Fall programs. Thirty-three new patrons signed up during September's Library Card Sign-Up Month. Approximately 1,000 items were weeded, and 30 new books were added. Ozyuk also met with Environmental Defenders to discuss the Community Fridge Program.

Youth Services

Simons reported that in October, Youth Services will reach out to Grace Lutheran and Saint Peter's to resume story times for the school year. On September 8, the English middle school teachers visited the Library for a mini-lesson on the various e-resources the Library offers. There are currently five teen volunteers, and Fall registration is now open.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (All possible action items)

- a. By-Law Draft – Suggestions, feedbacks, and discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS (All possible action items)

- a. Legislative Meet-up
The Board of Trustees reviewed the hand-outs and will let Director Fanslow of their decision to attend.

TRUSTEE TRAINING

Succession Planning – through iLead Portal

ADJOURN

There being no further business, President Knobloch declared the meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Dana Fanslow

Secretary Evenson