

**Minutes of the Irvington Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting
May 12, 2025**

In Person at the Irvington Public Library: Present: Laura Lilienfield, President; Anne Goldfield Rehm, Heather Thomas, Roddy Austin, Dominique Picon, Pierrette Pillone, Trustees; Rosemarie Gatzek, Library Director.

Action items are noted in ***bold italics***.

The minutes of the previous meeting of April 14, 2025, were accepted with minor corrections.

The Treasurer's report for April was accepted. The Library is on track to finish the fiscal year on budget. There may be a few expenses that come in after the end of the budget year. Heather notes that the Building Repairs and Maintenance category is substantially under budget.

Tonight's meeting is attended by a member of the public, Janet Alexander. She is a retired librarian from Sarah Lawrence College and came to discuss concerns regarding the presence of book dealers at FOIL's recent book sale. She notes the behavior of one dealer in particular who repeatedly piled large numbers of books into boxes at one time so he could sort through them. Discussion about the issue of book dealers at book sales. Dominique notes that the Library's books are priced very carefully so the book sale events tend to be less attractive to dealers in search of underpriced books. High value materials donated to the Library are usually sold on Amazon by a member of FOIL. While it would be challenging to enforce restrictions on the presence of dealers at public sales, the Board acknowledges the need to more closely monitor the behavior of book dealers at sales. The book sale is organized and held by FOIL, and the Library has no jurisdiction over its governance, but will let FOIL know of her comments. Janet thanked the Board for discussing her concerns and left the meeting.

President's Report:

- Larry signed off on the statement of loss for repairs from the February leak (\$18K), which will be covered by insurance. Rosemarie notes that Angel has thoroughly waterproofed the bathroom in the apartment where the water originated.
- WHG resubmitted the corrected shared expenses reflecting the expansion tank project. The Board approves the June-December shared expenses (\$5,168.30).
- Chris Collins has submitted for Village approval the line-item expenses for tie-in of the IVE controls and pump controls for the chiller, totalling \$23,870. Rosemarie is reviewing. ***She will also review labor costs with Katie.*** Work will begin following approval of finalized amounts (hopefully next month).
- Angel will repair the leak in the Program Room, but he has been busy with other projects lately.
- Next week, Jimmy John will walk through to review his painting proposal, which is higher than expected. PTG isn't an option for this job because they are only approved as a general contractor for the Village, not for painting.

President's Report (continued):

- Morabito completed several projects including replacing the current transducer in Air Handler #2, repairing a floor outlet in the Program Room, and retrofitting a second arch LED light in the Reading Room. They will also cover a floor outlet in the Reading Room.
- **Rosemarie will schedule** the installation of the induction loop in the Program Room. **Pierrette will send Rosemarie a copy of the minutes** from the March and April (2025) meetings, to forward to HLA to show Board approval.

Director's Report:

- This was a busy month, with more outside group and Village committee meetings. Rosemarie was also approached by a Westchester-based group (Men Supporting Men) to arrange for meeting space in the TRR for a men's support group.
- Attendance was low towards the end of the month compared to the same time in previous years.
- Yoga sessions were popular, with over 10 participants.
- YA program attendance was down, but this may reflect how much is going on at school.
- The junior chess program was successful and well-attended. Rosemarie notes that finding a similar time frame next time will be key. This time it was scheduled to coincide with a break in the seasonal sports schedule.
- Update on the Battle of the Books team: This annual event (in Ossining) runs in the format of a trivia contest and testing book knowledge. Middle- and high-school teams all read the same books over the summer and practice for the competition. The Library has formed a team and will compete in the fall this year.
- Circulation statistics: Total circulation was slightly lower than April 2024. One noteworthy difference is that adult and children's circulation stats were reversed, with the lowest children's numbers in years. The reason for this is unclear, though it may have to do with the coinciding holidays and school break (Easter, Passover, and spring break).
- Children's movie borrowing was also down.
- Consumer Reports is still popular, but the April issue was not as active as past years.
- Discussion about proposed budget for museum passes. Rosemarie distributed a spreadsheet showing current passes (including circulation) vs. proposed passes. Rosemarie and Carolyn visited Dia Beacon, which has been added to the proposed list. Rosemarie notes it would need to be advertised to make patrons aware. In general she notes it will be important to advertise what each pass covers, including the fact that some have reciprocity for members with other museums. Links to museum websites would also be helpful for patrons. She also notes that MOMA is expensive, but patrons have been asking for it. Another important practice will be to review pass offerings every year (including tracking usage) to decide which ones to continue. The Board approves the proposed list for the upcoming year (\$4,872.50). Rosemarie notes that the pass for Octagon house is still being discussed due to technical issues.

Art Exhibitions Update:

- Anne notes there is a typo in the agenda: The gallery is booked through May of 2026.
- March is open, but currently blocked for Janet Lippman; maybe HS artists can continue to February. **Anne will look for someone for March.**

Tiffany Reading/Community Program Room Update:

- The TRR (Old Croton Aqueduct) tour was rescheduled to Sunday, May 18.
- Discover the History of Slaveholding program was well-attended (70 people). The larger venue at MSS was a better option for the large crowd, and the program was very well-received.

Other issues:

- Trustee Training update: Laura, Anne, and Dominique attended “Understanding the Orders, Agenda, Projects and Platforms Impacting Libraries Online” (April 24); and Laura attended the April 30th Trustee Handbook Book Club.
- Rosemarie gave Laura the NYS library system list of training links.
- Anne provided a draft of the updated selection policy. Laura made some changes and asks for **comments to be sent to her before the next Board meeting. The Board will review and vote on the updated policy next month.**
- The Board approves the Library’s NYS report for 2024.
- The Rivertowns Chamber of Commerce is honoring libraries of the Rivertowns. Rosemarie asks for volunteers to attend a Zoom planning meeting on Thursday morning. This is a gala fundraiser, so it isn’t clear yet what the workload will be associated with this event. From the planning meeting, we should try to understand what the time allocation would be and expectations for work to put into it. **Heather will attend. Laura or Rosemarie will send her information about the meeting. Rosemarie will send a link and give Heather’s name to the organizer.**
- The next Board meeting will be Monday, June 9, at the Library.
- For the July meeting, the date will need to be adjusted to later in the month than usual. **This will be decided next month.**