Rutherford Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes for January 20, 2026 Meeting 7:00PM

Open Meeting Held: Library Auditorium
Optional Zoom Meeting ID 842 9475 4177 & Password 974544

1. Roll Call

Trustees Present	Ms. Marisa Ackermann Ms. Wendy Armacost Ms. Stephanie Kivich Mr. Jimmy Rizzo - Zoom Ms. Monica Rodriguez - Zoom Mr. Charles Ryan - Zoom Mr. Palmer Yale - Zoom
Absent	Ms. Kim Bogosian Ms. Krista Vellis
Staff Present	Ms. Gretchen Corsillo
Others Present	Ms. Christie Del Rey-Cone Mr. David Scheidel, Attorney
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Ms. Armacost

2. Provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act

Ms. Armacost read the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

3. 2026 Reorganization

a. Election of Officers

Motion: To approve the nomination and election of Stephanie Kivich as President, effective January 1, 2026.

Moved: Rodriguez Seconded: Rizzo
For: Ackermann, Armacost, Kivich, Rizzo, Rodriguez, Ryan, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

Motion: To approve the nomination and election of Monica Rodriguez as Vice President, effective January 1, 2026.

Moved: Kivich Seconded: Yale
For: Ackermann, Armacost, Kivich, Rizzo, Rodriguez, Ryan, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

Motion: To approve the nomination and election of James Rizzo as Treasurer, effective January 1, 2026.

Moved: Ackermann Seconded: Yale
For: Ackermann, Armacost, Kivich, Rodriguez, Ryan, Yale
Against:
Abstain: Rizzo

Motion: To approve the nomination and election of Krista Vellis as Secretary, effective January 1, 2026.

Moved: Rizzo Seconded: Rodriguez
For: Ackermann, Armacost, Kivich, Rizzo, Rodriguez, Ryan, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

b. Appointments

i. Auditor: Wielkotz & Company
ii. Newspaper of Record: Bergen Record
iii. Legal Counsel: Ian Doris, Esq.

Motion: To approve the aforementioned appointments for 2026.

Moved: Armacost Seconded: Ackermann
For: Ackermann, Armacost, Kivich, Rizzo, Rodriguez, Ryan, Vellis, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

c. BCCLS Certification of Agreement

Motion: To authorize Gretchen Corsillo and Stephanie Kivich to complete the 2026 BCCLS Certification of Agreement

Moved: Armacost Seconded: Rodriguez
For: Ackermann, Armacost, Kivich, Rizzo, Rodriguez, Ryan, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

4. President's Report

A. Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda for tonight's meeting
Moved: Ackermann Seconded: Rizzo
For: Ackermann, Armacost, Kivich, Rizzo, Rodriguez, Ryan, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

B. Approval of the minutes

Motion: To approve the open session minutes of the December 16, 2025 board meeting.
Moved: Yale Seconded: Rodriguez
For: Ackermann, Armacost, Kivich, Rodriguez, Ryan, Yale
Against:
Abstain: Rizzo

Motion: To approve the closed session minutes of the December 16, 2025 board meeting.
Moved: Armacost Seconded: Yale
For: Ackermann, Armacost, Kivich, Rodriguez, Ryan, Yale
Against:
Abstain: Rizzo

5. Hearing of the citizens

Ms. Kivich opened the meeting to the hearing of the citizens. Seeing none, she closed the meeting.

6. Correspondence – None

7. Director's Report

Ms. Corsillo reported:

- Facilities – HVAC parts are on order for the air handler and the leaky boiler. One boiler is online and is able to heat the building for now. We can put the other one on, in an emergency. There's no documentation as to where the building management system is located, as per the high level Reiner technician who came to inspect. There was a laptop version apparently, but we don't have any laptop with anything like that on there. Ms. Corsillo found the blueprints from the installation. If we have to replace it, it will be a big expense. The lack of availability of having access to that system is a big part of the issues we have had over the years.
- Finance - Audit report for 2024 came late today. It will be in the Feb packet. The draft of the operating budget will be voted on later.
- Personnel evaluations are in progress. No proposal from the Union as yet. They are still working under the provisions of the old contract.
    - Staff training – BCCLS is changing library-to-library billing policies. Summer reading trainings are coming up. Ms. Corsillo will be on the NJLA scholarship committee now.
- Friends - Mini Golf tickets are on sale now and already selling quickly. Prices went up a little bit to make up for increased processing fees. Linda Rynd and Ms. Corsillo were asked to present about the Mini Golf fundraiser at a workshop.
    - Monthly book donation started in January. They have received a lot already. First weekend of every month.
    - Online merch store – mainly tee shirts etc. Staff is designing. Proceeds will go to the Friends. We've had so many comments on staff shirts and patrons are asking to purchase. The annual Friends report is included in the packet. They had a very successful 2025.
- Advocacy - NJLA ebook legislation bill – addressing price gouging with online publishers. They are figuring out the logistics of the bill now. NJ's lobbyist is talking to other states to see where they are as well. It will probably up for a vote in the next couple months.

8. Committee Reports

A. Finance

1. Payment of December bills

Motion: To approve payment of bills enclosed in packet, with additions
Moved: Armacost Seconded: Yale
For: Ackermann, Armacost, Kivich, Rizzo, Rodriguez, Ryan, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

2. Approval of 2026 Operating Budget

Motion: To approve the 2026 Operating Budget, as presented.
Moved: Yale Seconded: Ackermann
For: Ackermann, Armacost, Kivich, Rizzo, Rodriguez, Ryan, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

3. Approval of 2026 Municipal Appropriation Request

Motion: To approve the 2026 Municipal Appropriation Request, as presented
Moved: Rizzo Seconded: Armacost
For: Ackermann, Armacost, Kivich, Rizzo, Rodriguez, Ryan, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

B. Buildings/Grounds – Ms. DelRey-Cone reached out to Jeff Jordan and he put another architect in touch with us to see if we can do something to make the stairs to the mezzanine ADA compliant.

C. Foundation – No report.

D. By-Laws – No report.

E. Strategic Planning –

F. Nominating – All Officers were sworn in at this meeting.

G. Personnel – No report

H. Mayor/Alternate – Ms. Del Rey-Cone met with Ms. Corsillo and Ms. Kivich and is hitting the ground running.

I. Superintendent/Alternate – Another 6-12th grade survey is going out. They've had 4% response rate so far.

J. Legal – No report.

9. Old Business

- None

10. New Business

- 2026 Committee Assignments
    - Below are the committees from last year. Please let Ms. Kivich know if there's a committee that you're interested in.

Building & Grounds
Kim Bogosian
Marisa Ackerman
Stephanie Kivich
Wendy Armacost

By-Laws
Wendy Armacost
Monica Rodriguez
Charles Ryan

Foundation
Wendy Armacost
Kim Bogosian
James Rizzo
Stephanie Kivich

Policies
Stephanie Kivich
Wendy Armacost
Palmer Yale
Monica Rodriguez

Nominating
Krista Vellis
Finance
Wendy Armacost
James Rizzo

Personnel
Marisa Ackerman
Palmer Yale
Wendy Armacost

- Revised Hours: March 6 and 7, 2026

Motion: To close the library at 1pm on Friday, March 6 and all day Saturday, March 7, 2026 in order to accommodate Library Mini Golf.
Moved: Rizzo Seconded: Armacost
For: Ackermann, Armacost, Kivich, Rizzo, Rodriguez, Ryan, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

11. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.
Moved: Rizzo Seconded: Armacost
For: Ackermann, Armacost, Kivich, Rizzo, Rodriguez, Ryan, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cori Verdino

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 7:00 PM