

El Rito Public Library

Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 10, 2026

Meeting Opening

- The meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm.
- Present at the meeting were Directors Lynne Gudes, Sid Gudes, Roberta Orona-Cordova (via Zoom), Maggie Towne, and Dave Warren. Director Vicky Broadus had previously resigned. Director Arnold Gurule was not present. There were no other attendees.
- Five out of six voting members of the Board being in attendance, a quorum of the voting members of the Board was established.
- Motion was made and passed unanimously to accept the minutes of the March meeting.

Financial, Compliance, and Risk Report

Financial Status

- Total cash available at end of March was \$148,796, compared to \$132,323 the previous month.
- Revenue totaled \$34,500, led by a \$24,900 NM State Library rural library grant, \$4,300 from the Santa Fe Community Foundation's El Rito Library and Bill Page endowments, \$3,500 from the Helen Keller Foundation, and \$670 from individuals.
- Expenditures were \$9,197, with payroll, a quilters' sewing machine, and supplies as the main costs.

Grant Status

- Annual State Rural Libraries Program grant of \$24,000 has \$17,000 remaining to be spent.
- Outdoor Recreation grant of \$27,000 has spent \$1,100, with \$25,900 remaining.

Compliance

- Charity Navigator has not yet processed the latest tax return after five months; the organization's rating shifted from 36/100 (zero stars) to 55/100 (one star) without any changes filed, likely due to a methodology update internal to Charity Navigator.
- Sid recommended amending the June 2024 tax return to correct classification errors that overstated administrative costs relative to program costs. The 2023 return will age off Charity Navigator in the Fall so amending does not seem to be an effective use of time.
- Insurance coverage increase proposed: raising property coverage from \$390K to \$690K and general liability from \$1M to \$2M would bring the total annual premium from ~\$6,000 to ~\$9,800—a \$3,800 increase driven by fire-zone risk and limited insurer options after the Calf Canyon / Hermits Peak fire. Board agreed the premium increase is necessary given liability exposure and the inability to find alternative insurers; a fire-retardant roof could prompt a reassessment and potential premium reduction.
- Congressionally Directed Spending request of \$100,000 submitted via Senator Ben Luján's office to the USDA Rural Development Fund, covering the roof, mini-splits, and an inflation factor; funding is FY2027 money contingent on Congress passing the budget, which could slip to late 2026 or 2027 or not pass at all. Board agreed to wait on the full roof and mini-split project pending the federal grant outcome, preserving ~\$100,000 of the current \$148,000 balance; Sid suggested installing one mini-split in the main circulation room now if possible, Dave will look into it.

Risk

- Section 5.2 of the bylaws, regarding conflicts of interest, added in reaction to 2025 community complaints, should be replaced with a broader conflict-of-interest policy aligned with guidance from the National Council of Nonprofits, which requires conflicted directors to abstain from votes and the P&P manual to define conflict examples and potential solutions. Scheduled for a vote at the next Board meeting.

Committee Reports

- None.

Library Team Leader Report

Jill stepped down from the library team leader role, but will continue as fundraising team leader, and will continue to organize the outdoor recreation and book club events.

Library Operations and Programming Updates

- The inaugural book club date was changed from April 17th to April 24th.

Community Services

- April 25th is the dedication of the Michael Maddex stage. Four musicians plus the group Divino will be performing.

Fundraising

- None.

Executive Session

- A motion was made to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.
- The motion was unanimously approved.
- Executive session was entered.
- The regular meeting resumed.

Meeting Closing

- The next Board meeting was set for Friday, May 8, 2026, at noon.
- The Board voted to adjourn the meeting.
- The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 pm.