

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS**

February 24, 2009

President Meyering called the meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids to order at 6:01 pm in the Boardroom of 111 Library St NE.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Blickley (6:08), Botts, Cusack, Lumpkins, Meyering, VanderVelde, Witteveen-Lane

Administration Present: Baar, Corrado, Ehlers, Jakel and Warner

Others Present: Elizabeth White, Deputy City Attorney; Michael Lucas, GREIU Representative; Marcie Lewis, President of the Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation; member of the community

2. Oath of Office

President Meyering announced that Commissioner Witteveen-Lane had taken the oath of office on Saturday and welcomed her to the Board.

3. Presentation – GRPL Foundation

Ms. Lewis discussed the latest round of Foundation funding. She remarked that many of the funds were donated for programming and that the Foundation Board thinks it is important to give towards programs such as Taste of Soul Sunday. She also stated that she is working on the Active Fund for 2009 and asked Board members to do personalization on letters if they would be interested in doing so.

Commissioner Meyering commented that the Foundation meeting was intense, and that he took this as a sign that the Foundation Board is interested in what the library is doing. Commissioner Cusack remarked that the tension between big draws and smaller library-centered programs library programs is a good thing.

4. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Ms. Ehlers stated that the technology training will be held in the computer training room in March one hour prior to the start of the Board meeting. March's topic will be blogs.

5. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of 1/27/09 and the Special Board Meeting of 2/3/09

MOVED by Commissioner Cusack, seconded by Commissioner VanderVelde, to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 27, 2009. Unanimously carried.

MOVED by Commissioner VanderVelde, seconded by Commissioner Lumpkins, to approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of February 3, 2009. Unanimously carried.

6. Board Comments

Commissioner VanderVelde commented that Taste of Soul Sunday was wonderful and that everyone enjoyed the event. She felt the presentations were wonderful especially the author of the Underground Railroad book who spoke earlier in the month. Commissioner Cusack thanked staff for the organization of the event. She thought it flowed well. Commissioner Blickley remarked that the agenda at door was very helpful. Commissioner Lumpkins apologized for not being able to stay long, and said she heard comments about what a wonderful day it was and that Sandmanns was a hit. Commissioner Blickley added that the City High volunteers were very helpful. Director Warner noted that the City Manager was here for the event.

7. Committee Reports – None

8. Other Reports

- a. Statistical Report for January 2009

Commissioner Cusack noted that since the switch to Evergreen the Library has had a consistent decrease. Director Warner stated that the decline will continue for a while (however the gap between pre-Evergreen and now has narrowed, until people understand the new system, and it will be interesting to see how MelCat changes this. New patrons (library cards) are up. Commissioner VanderVelde commented that weather has been bad this winter and that could have contributed to lower number.

Commissioner Cusack asked Director Warner to explain the different way of recording web stats. Director Warner said that on the new webpage, we now have better stats, changed to unique web visits, blog visits – now blog on every page, so no longer use that as a marker. The wiki is now evidence of people using reference.

Commissioner Witteveen-Lane noted a large increase in the downloadable net library. Director Warner stated that this would continue to grow with contracts to iPod.

Commissioner Cusack asked how do we know if the blog is successful when people don't comment on it. Director Warner noted that the blog is informative rather than interactive, and that staff don't put out things that would generate much controversy. We also review comments before they are posted. On the internal blog, people comment all the time. Unfiltered blog comments, as seen on other library sites, are not useful.

- b. Staff Changes Report – no comments

9. Staff Reports

- a. Library Director's Report

Director Warner stated that the neighborhood association around Madison Square is working with Neighborhood Ventures and wants to use our property to put up a permanent sign. They want to bring a proposal to next month's meeting. The sign would need to be approved by the City. Mr. Baar noted that he will see the sign proposal tomorrow. Commissioner Blickley commented that most neighborhoods put up signs now and we can put restrictions on them. Commissioner Meyering said that we could accept the proposal and refer them to city staff. This will be an agenda item for next month.

Commissioner Blickley asked how books are given out for One Book One County for Kids. Director Warner said they were given to every GRPS 4th grader.

Commissioner Meyering commented on the Evergreen updates and how those would impact patrons. Director Warner said most changes were for staff and only credit card payments would affect patrons directly. MelCat was also briefly discussed.

Director Warner reported on her meeting with MLA's Legislative Committee and their discussion regarding the future of the Library of Michigan and state librarian.

- b. GRPL Foundation President's Report – No Report (see Agenda Item #3)
- c. Financial Update

Mr. Jakel reported an anticipated surplus for the fiscal year due primarily to lower expenses. There were no further questions.

10. Old Business

- a. FY2010 Budget Discussion

Mr. Jakel explained the budget highlights included and stated that the proposed budget for FY10 shows a slight surplus. Each department's budget requests were reviewed for potential cost savings and there were also some cost savings options relating to health insurance factored in. Mr. Jakel provided an explanation as to the increase in the City's administrative charges. The purchasing charge increased substantially due to the City's new software system, which we are charged a portion of as well as our use of the City Attorney increased. We will be looking at ways to consolidate our purchasing use in the near future. Other brief discussion occurred regarding personnel, state aid and Evergreen.

MOVED by Commissioner Botts, seconded by Commissioner VanderVelde, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids, approves the Library's budget for FY2010 as presented. Unanimously carried.

11. New Business – None

12. Information Items

- a. Media Index
- b. Board & Administrator – February 2009

There were no comments.

13. Grand Rapids Employees Independent Union, Library Rank & File and Supervisory Units – No Report

14. Agenda Items for Regular Board Meeting (March 31, 2009)

- a. Sign at Madison Square
- b. Service Awards
- c. Technology Plan Presentation by Bill Ott
- d. Health Insurance Proposal

Commissioner Blickley reminded the Board of the Literacy Center's Spelling Bee on March 12.

15. Public Comments – None

Meeting adjourned at 7:20PM.