

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

**April 28, 2009**

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

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Blickley, Cusack, Lumpkins, Meyering, VanderVelde and Witteveen-Lane

Board Members Absent: Botts (with notification)

Administration Present: Baar, Jakel and Warner

Others Present: Catherine Mish, City Attorney; Kate Hawkins, GREIU Representative; Thomas Dilley, GRPL Foundation

2. Executive Session

The Board proceeded into a closed session for a strategy and negotiation session connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement.

Roll call vote was taken at 6:01PM.

Roll Call: Blickley – yes      Cusack – yes      Lumpkins – yes  
Meyering – yes      VanderVelde - yes      Wittenveen-Lane – yes

**MOVED by Commissioner Lumpkins, seconded by Commissioner Blickley to return to public session. Unanimously carried.**

The Board returned to public session at 6:11PM.

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items – None

4. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of 3/31/2009

**MOVED by Commissioner Cusack, seconded by Commissioner VanderVelde, to approve minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 31, 2009. Unanimously carried.**

5. Board Comments

Commissioner Cusack stated she needed to leave the meeting at 6:45PM.

6. Committee Reports – None
7. Other Reports
  - a. Statistical Report for March 2009
  - b. Staff Changes Report

Director Warner noted that circulation levels at the Main library are climbing back to pre-Evergreen numbers.

8. Staff & Foundation Reports

- a. Library Director's Report

Director Warner reported that she and Mr. Jakel met with City Parking to discuss parking lot issues, specifically their new unattended stations.

She also reported that due to a server issue on the Michigan Library Consortium's site, we are not yet up and running with MelCat.

Commissioner Cusack asked for a bit more information on the google issue; Director Warner provided a brief history of the issue.

- b. GRPL Foundation President's Report & Discussion

President Meyering stated that after the last Foundation meeting, questions about funding and operations came up among the three members of the Board who also sit on the Foundation Board. In conversations that Mr. Jakel has had with Lance Werner, the Library of Michigan attorney, and with Ms. Mish, the City Attorney, we were advised that we were in violation of our millage ballot proposal as well as the Michigan Constitution. Ms. Mish stated that specifically processing the Foundation's payroll and invoicing them for past wages and payroll taxes can not continue because it is considered "lending of credit." Use of facilities and equipment is probably less problematic and can be addressed by entering into a formal lease agreement with a nominal amount for the Foundation's use of this. How to proceed and the issue of timeliness was discussed.

**MOVED by Commissioner Cusack, seconded by Commissioner Blickley, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids, approves that Library staff will work quickly, diligently and helpfully with the Library Foundation to implement appropriate operating procedures between the two organizations as soon as possible. Unanimously carried.**

Mr. Jakel stated that he would work with the Foundation in assisting them with finding a payroll processor.

c. Financial Update

Mr. Jakel provided a brief overview of the budget. He reported that we should be ending the year with a surplus which will give a cushion going into FY10 which will be a tougher year.

9. Old Business

a. Resolution to Grant Permission to Neighborhood Ventures to Move Forward with the Madison Square Placemaker Project

Director Warner reported that she met with Ms. VanDyke and Ms. Harris from Neighborhood Ventures and also had a conversation with Suzanne Schultz from City Planning regarding the project. It is the Director's impression that they have answered and responded to the Board's questions and concerns and is recommending that we give them authorization to move forward. She stated that she would, however, like to see a visual that ensures that our current sign remains visible.

**MOVED by Commissioner Blickley, seconded by Commissioner VanderVelde, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids grants permission to Neighborhood Ventures to move forward with the Madison Square Placemaker Project. Unanimously carried.**

10. New Business

a. Resolution to Approve Library Closings for Carpet Installation

**MOVED by Commissioner VanderVelde, seconded by Commissioner Lumpkins, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids, approves closing branches for carpet installation as follows: Yankee Clipper – April 29 & 30; Seymour – May 13 & 14; Ottawa Hills – June 2 & 3; and West Side – June 25, 26 & 27, 2009.**

President Meyering asked how staffing would be handled during the closings. Director Warner stated that some staff will be working in the building behind the scenes and others have taken time off.

**Unanimously carried.**

b. Resolution to Approve Modifications to Lakeland Library Cooperative Plan of Service

Director Warner stated that most of the modifications are primarily due to revised State Aid rules; all cooperative members must present the modifications to their board for approval.

**MOVED by Commissioner Blickley, seconded by Commissioner VanderVelde, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approves the modifications to the Lakeland Library Cooperative Basic Plan of Service and authorized the Board President to sign the Cooperative Plan of Service resolution for the Grand Rapids Public Library. Unanimously carried.**

11. Information Items – No Comments
12. Grand Rapids Employees Independent Union, Library Rank & File and Supervisory Units – No Report
13. Agenda Items for Regular Board Meeting (May 26, 2009)
  - a. Branch Hours Proposal
  - b. Foundation Discussion
14. Public Comments – None

Meeting adjourned at 7:04PM.