

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

May 25, 2010

Due to a lack of quorum the Board proceeded to agenda item #2, a presentation on Library programming by Sophia Brewer, before calling the meeting to order.

Ms. Brewer gave a brief overview of this fiscal year's larger programming events. She reported that these programs drew over 6,000 attendees to the Library with approximately 90% of attendees rating programming as very good to excellent. She stated that programming is a way for the Library to collaborate with the community and with businesses which ties in nicely with the strategic plan. She noted that there are challenges they are working through such as trying to dispel the "free is of no value" myth and how and if we want to promote unpublished/unknown talent.

Brief discussion occurred regarding adult programming at branches. Ms. Brewer stated that they work with the space that is available and did hold some of the Earth Week programs at branch locations. The Board thanked Ms. Brewer for her update and her energy, ideas and willingness to establish new partnerships.

President Cusack called the meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids to order at 6:16PM in the Boardroom of 111 Library St. NE.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Baldrige, Blickley, Botts, Cusack, Lumpkins and VanderVelde (with notification at 6:53PM)

Board Members Absent: Witteveen-Lane (with notification)

Others Present: Elizabeth White, Assistant City Attorney; Mary Knudstrup, GREIU Representative; Dirk Hoffius, Library Foundation

Commissioners Blickley and Botts took a moment to share good news. President Cusack welcomed Commissioner Baldrige to the Board.

2. Presentation (see above)

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items – None

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of 4/27/10

MOVED by Commissioner Botts, seconded by Commissioner Lumpkins, to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 27, 2010.

Unanimously carried.

5. Board Comments

Commissioner Blickley stated she was very impressed with the Volunteer Luncheon; she enjoyed hearing each volunteer tell what they did at the Library. Commissioner Botts reported that the Fountain Street Church Action Committee donated \$1,000 to the Foundation for the Summer Reading Program.

President Cusack took a moment to refresh the Board on procedure, stating that she, as the Board President, will recognize those members who wish to speak; this should help to keep meetings moving along.

6. Committee Reports

Commissioner Blickley had nothing new to report on the Legislative front. Director Warner stated that everything is currently on hold while the House and Senate continue their work on the budget.

7. Other Reports

- a. Statistical Report for April 2010
- b. Staff Changes Report

There were no additional comments.

8. Staff & Foundation Reports

- a. Library Director's Report

Director Warner was asked to elaborate a bit on Lakeland's decision to have an alternate card for patrons in underfunded contract areas. She explained that it will be the individual library's decision to choose whether or not to serve these patrons at the same level as their legal service area patrons. She also reported that Lakeland is proposing two additional measures which are supposed to reduce costs associated with delivery. Those are limited borrowing to patrons outside of a library's boundaries and designating a home library for holds and returns, which does not include Grand Rapids libraries as an option. She stated she would have more information after the Lakeland Board Meeting on Wednesday. She did note that we have made our case and other libraries do agree with our position but they are smaller libraries. If this does happen, the Grand Rapids Public Library will make a very strong public relations effort to make it clear that this was not our issue. President Cusack asked for talking points in the event the Board is contacted.

- b. Financial Update

Mr. Jakel reported that we have received the industrial/commercial facilities tax which was \$15,000 over what was budgeted so we are now up to 100% of the budget with still two months left in the fiscal year. He noted that we could possibly have a Michigan Tax Tribunal issue but we don't anticipate any issues. He reported that we were also able to accommodate the extra payouts we had to make to the City for retiree health care expenses through the budget without having to use any of the fund balance. Mr. Jakel expects that we should end the year right at budget.

c. Marketing & Communications Report

Ms. Corrado announced that the Library won an ALA Best of Show and an Honorable Mention for the design of the book cards and Big Read materials.

She reported on the GR Reads program, a summer reading program for adults, which is taking the place of One Book One County. Ten books, either written by Michigan authors or about Michigan, will be highlighted through author visits, movies and related speakers and events. Ms. Corrado noted that there are twenty-seven events and if anyone would like to volunteer to help to please let her know.

Lastly, Ms. Corrado stated she has lawn signs promoting the Summer Reading Program if anyone would like to take some.

d. GRPL Foundation Report

Mr. Hoffius stated the Foundation will review and award grant requests at their August meeting.

9. Old Business – None

10. New Business

a. Meeting Start Time and June Meeting Date

President Cusack proposed starting future meetings at 5:30 p.m. The Board agreed to start their next meeting at 5:30 p.m. at which time they will evaluate the earlier start time. President Cusack asked that an email reminder, with the new time, be sent to the Board prior to the meeting.

MOVED by Commissioner Baldrige, seconded by Commissioner Blickley, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids will start their next Board Meeting at 5:30 p.m. Unanimously carried.

President Cusack stated that she, along with Director Warner and

Commissioner Botts would be absent from the June meeting. She discussed this with Director Warner and since there are no pressing issues she suggested that the June meeting be canceled.

MOVED by Commissioner Botts, seconded by Commissioner Baldrige, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids, approves the cancellation of the June 29, 2010 Board Meeting. Unanimously carried.

b. Library Meeting Rooms

President Cusack stated that Commissioner Witteveen-Lane asked that this item be tabled until the next meeting so she could be included in the discussion.

MOVED by Commissioner Lumpkins, seconded by Commissioner Blickley, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids, approves tabling the Library Meeting Room discussion until the July 27, 2010 meeting. Unanimously carried.

c. Sale of Assets

President Cusack felt that a two part discussion would be needed; one to discuss the request from Joan Secchia and another to discuss the sale of assets in general.

Discussion occurred and the Board agreed they were not in favor of selling the "Campau Square in Snow: Grand Rapids" painting to Mrs. Secchia. They felt this artwork is a piece of Grand Rapids history and should remain with the library and continue to be available for the public to enjoy.

MOVED by Commissioner Blickley, seconded by Commissioner VanderVelde, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids retain the "Campau Square in Snow: Grand Rapids" painting and thank Mrs. Secchia for her offer. Unanimously carried.

President Cusack then suggested forming a two person committee who would discuss a policy relating to other assets we may wish to sell.

MOVED by Commissioner VanderVelde, seconded by Commissioner Lumpkins that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approves the establishment of a committee to discuss the selling and/or disposition of assets of various kinds. Unanimously carried.

President Cusack appointed Commissioners Baldrige and Blickley to the committee. She asked that they be ready to report at September or October's meeting.

- d. Board Policy 98-1 Applications for Employment from Members of the Board of Library Commissioners

Mr. Baar stated that the Union has brought a grievance forward dealing with the hiring of a former Board member, specifically the timing of the resignation from the Board and when the application for employment was received. At a pre-arbitration meeting, the Union offered to resolve the grievance if the Board Policy 98-1 would be modified to include a stipulation that a Board member could not apply for employment until 6 months after their resignation from the Board.

Discussion occurred, the Board felt that the Union's grievance pertaining to a Board policy was inappropriate and they had no desire at this time to change the policy.

MOVED by Commissioner Baldrige, seconded by Commissioner VanderVelde, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids will retain Board Policy 98-1 as currently written. Unanimously carried.

A discussion pertaining to policy review will be a part of new business at the July meeting.

11. Information Items

- a. Media Index
- b. Board & Administrator – May 2010
- c. Earth Week Final Marketing Report
- d. Retiree Health Insurance

Mr. Baar explained there are ten retirees, under the age of 65, that the Library is in the process of transferring their health insurance to the Priority Health Point of Service plan. This is the same health insurance plan that current Library employees are a part of and will offer a benefit that is very close to the benefit level that retirees currently have. He stated this transfer from the City's plan will represent a significant savings for the Library and it is not the Library's plan to charge retirees for any portion of the premium cost.

MOVED by Commissioner Blickley, seconded by Commissioner Lumpkins that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids, authorizes the transfer of Library retirees to a Priority Health Point of Service plan that is as close in coverage as possible to the health plan under which they retired. Passed. (1 recusal – Baldrige)

e. Downtown Grand Rapids

Commissioner Blickley asked if there was a way the Library could partner with the DDA to expand services to downtown workers. President Cusack suggested that Commissioner Blickley email her ideas to Director Warner since she is on that committee.

12. Grand Rapids Employees Independent Union, Library Rank & File and Supervisory Units

Ms. Knudstrup commented on the grievance referred to in agenda item 10.d.

13. Agenda Items for Regular Board Meeting (July 27, 2010)

- a. FY11 Travel Opportunities
- b. Operational Plan Update
- c. Meeting Room Discussion
- d. Collaborative Groups Review
- e. Policy Review Discussion
- f. Board Calendar Discussion

14. Public Comments – None

Commissioner Lumpkins congratulated Director Warner on her election as PLA President.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36PM.