

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

**September 29, 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, Botts, Cusack, Meyering and Witteveen-Lane

Board Members Absent: Lumpkins and VanderVelde (both with notification)

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

Others Present: Nadine Klein, Assistant City Attorney, Troy Hoyles and Kate Hawkins, GREIU Representatives; Marcie Lewis and Dirk Hoffius, Library Foundation; Peggy Demmon, Tim Gleisner, Melissa Kornoelje, Kolene Allen, Karolee Gillman, Katie Visner and Pat Empie, Staff

2. Service Award Presentations

Director Warner, on behalf of the Board of Library Commissioners, presented service awards to Ms. Demmon, Mr. Gleisner, Ms. Kornoelje, Ms. Allen, Ms. Gillman, Ms. Visner and Ms. Empie and thanked them for their service to the Library.

3. Presentation – Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation

Mr. Hoffius and Ms. Lewis gave an update on projects underway by the Local History & Special Collections Committee and the Youth & Children's Committee.

4. Public Comments – None

5. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of 7/28/09

**MOVED by Commissioner Cusack, seconded by Commissioner Botts, to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 28, 2009. Unanimously carried.**

6. Board Comments

Commissioner Botts commented that he had spoken with three individuals regarding privacy concerns with the self serve holds shelf. Director Warner

stated that patrons like the service. She added that the service has been in practice at Kent District branches for many years and we had been doing this at the Seymour branch for some time as well.

Commissioner Blickley complimented Commissioner Witteveen-Lane on her editorial in the September 23 edition of the GR Press.

## 7. Committee Reports

### a. Legislative Update

Commissioner Blickley stated she felt the rally in Lansing proved to be just as effective as our Legislative breakfasts. She added that she was surprised and happy that four Library Commissioners were able to attend.

## 8. Other Reports

### a. Statistical Report for August 2009

### b. Staff Changes Report

Director Warner stated in October we can start to compare actual circulation figures in Evergreen. We will continue to monitor circulation and may need to do some public relations in specific neighborhoods.

## 9. Staff Reports

### a. Library Director's Report

Ms. Corrado reported that the Business Review honored the Library's Green Team in their efforts with green education. She and Tim Warren accepted the award on behalf of the Library.

Ms. Corrado also reported that the Library participated in the ArtPrize Art Ed Day. The Library partnered with the Grand Rapids Humanities Council educating middle and high school students on democracy and being an informed voter. Twenty schools, approximately 1,200 students, participated.

Director Warner reported that ArtPrize has kept us busy. We have dedicated a lot of staff time and volunteer time and have been busy non stop registering voters. Our gate count has been up about 300-400 people a day. She stated it has been a good partnership.

President Meyering asked if we've received any feedback regarding the hours. Director Warner responded that patrons like the extended hours.

Commissioner Blickley asked for an update on the proposed signage at Madison Square. Director Warner commented that she has not heard anything further since Neighborhood Venture's presentation to the Board.

b. GRPL Foundation President's Report

There was no further discussion.

c. Financial Update

Mr. Jakel reported that property taxes have still not been added by the City, we should have those figures to include in next month's report. He reported that penal fine revenue was higher than anticipated. Overall the budget appears to be right on track.

Mr. Jakel reported that the Library will be taking over its own delivery of materials starting October 1 which should save approximately \$11,000 a year. This will allow us to once again have five day a week delivery to all branches. Initially, stops to Kent District Library and Lakeland will continue.

Commissioner Cusack asked about planning for the future with the uncertainty of funding. Mr. Jakel stated that once property taxes are known, we will be able to better plan for next fiscal year.

10. Old Business – None

11. New Business

a. Resolution to Adopt the Retiree Health Savings Plan

Mr. Baar distributed an overview of the Retiree Health Savings Account (RHSA); it was briefly discussed.

**MOVED by Commissioner Botts, seconded by Commissioner Cusack, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids adopts the Retiree Health Savings Agreement as provided by the Municipal Employees' Retirement Systems (MERS). This program is designed to create a fund for the employees of the Library to pay for their health care benefits when they retire from the Library. Unanimously carried.**

12. Information Items

- a. Media Index
- b. Board & Administrator – August & September 2009
- c. Summer Reading Program Statistics – 2009
- d. MLA – Impact of Tax Captures

Commissioner Cusack asked if we could get media coverage on the tax capture issue. Ms. Corrado stated she would pursue that and commented that it might tie in with what's happening around the state with funding.

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

Mr. Hoyles and Mr. Gleisner stated that staff are concerned that even though the contracts have been approved by both the Board and the staff they have not seen pay increases but have had health care deductions already made.

14. Agenda Items for Regular Board Meeting (October 27, 2009)

Director Warner reminded the Board of the Strategic Planning session on October 29.

15. Public Comments – None

Meeting adjourned at 7:10PM.