

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS  
February 20, 2018 – 4:30 pm  
111 Library St NE – Board Room**

Botts called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Board Members Present: Rachel Anderson, William Baldrige, James Botts, Sophia Brewer, M. Jade VanderVelde, Caralee Witteveen-Lane

Board Members Absent: Ivory Lehnert (without notice)

Administration Present: Bob Adcock, Marla Ehlers, Kristen Krueger-Corrado, Jason Hendrix, Rebecca Near, Briana Trudell,

Staff Present: Julie Tabberer

Public Present: Dan Poortenga, GRPLF; Sara Vander Werff, Comptroller's Office, Marcia Warner

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

No comments.

**3. DIRECTOR SEARCH DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS**

Botts asked what the board their thoughts regarding next steps for moving forward in the director search.

VanderVelde stated that it would be a good to look at the board's alternate choice and bring him in for an interview.

Brewer stated that she would like to have a discussion around the two finalists that are still on the table around whether or not they are viable options and then discuss whether or not the alternate should be brought in and what his qualifications make him a viable choice. She added that she is unsure if starting the search over at this point would be the best thing and there needs to be discussion.

Anderson agreed with Brewer's points and stated that she feels Sugden is still a viable candidate since she got a good feedback from staff and she thinks it's important to talk about where the board stands with the remaining two candidates.

Baldrige stated that since Kennon has withdrawn the board owes it to McNaughton to interview him as the alternate.

Botts stated that he would like to interview McNaughton and he agreed with Baldrige and could see what they think and then the board would have three candidates to look at.

Witteveen-Lane stated that she agreed that the board should interview McNaughton and then talk about the three candidates.

**MOTION: By Commissioner Baldrige, supported by Commissioner VanderVelde, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids agree to invite John McNaughton to Grand Rapids to interview for the Director Position.**

**ACTION: AYES 6 – 0**

**Motion passed.**

Botts asked Trudell and Hendrix to work with McNaughton to bring him in for an interview and a presentation like the other candidates on February 27, 2018.

Baldrige added that he's dismayed with the professionalism of Bradbury Miller Associates and added that he feels they should have immediately asked her to withdraw from the other search upon signing the acceptance letter.

**4. INTERIM DIRECTOR DISCUSSION**

Hendrix stated that it has been a long time since he was voted into the position and that if Warner will be at the library for 16-24 hours each week, he feels like it would be wise, if she's willing, to transfer the title to her in order to give a clear line of command. He also added that if the board doesn't want to move in this direction he's happy to keep the title.

Brewer shared that she felt like that going back and forth may make the board seem indecisive. She continued that it is possible to have a decision on a new director on Tuesday and suggested they wait until then.

Baldrige countered stating that he doesn't feel the board is being indecisive and if that Hendrix wants to have more time to focus on his job the he will willing to vote to have Hendrix and Warner switch of the roles.

Botts asked Adcock if there was money in the budget to have Warner in 16-24 hours each week. Adcock replied yes.

**MOTION: By Commissioner Baldrige, supported by Commissioner VanderVelde, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids agrees to appoint Marcia Warner as the Interim Director for the Grand Rapids Public Library and approve that Jason Hendrix assist her when needed.**

**ACTION: AYES 6 – 0**

**Motion passed.**

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dan Poortenga addressed the board about their negotiation with Kennon and commented on her withdrawal from consideration in the director search.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:56 pm.**