

**MINUTES
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
February 27, 2018 – 3:00 pm
111 Library St – Board Room**

Botts called the meeting to order at 3:00 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: Robert Adcock, Marla Ehlers, Jason Hendrix, Kristen Krueger-Corrado, Rebecca Near, Briana Trudell, Marcia Warner, Patrick Beatty

Staff Present: Julie Tabberer

Public Present: Carl Meyering, Steven Assarian, GREIU; Shirley Gagnon Allen, Dan Poortenga, GRPLF; Josh Naramore, Jessica Wood, City of GR

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments.

3. CITY PARKING LOT PRESENTATION – JOSH NARAMORE AND JESSICA WOOD

Josh Naramore thanked the board for letting them come. Naramore stated that the city is working on concepts and the city would like the Board of Library Commissioner to pay a key role in the process while also asserting the city's ownership of the lot and stating that the city also maintains control and management over the lot.

Jessica Wood added that the City Attorney's Office was asked about the ownership of the lot. She stated that she was able to locate legal documents with the conclusions being that the title of the property itself belonged to the city. She continued that she needs more time with the project and anticipates putting her opinion in writing.

Naramore added that the city will address the library parking lot at the city commission meeting on March 27 and will then go to the library board and lay out the next steps.

Botts asked Wood if the board could forward their questions to her and have her answers by the next board meeting. Wood replied that they could and that she would address them at their next meeting.

Botts thanked them Naramore and Wood for their time.

4. FINALIST INTERVIEW

The board interviewed John McNaughton from 3:13 – 3:51 pm.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE SELECTION OF NEW DIRECTOR

The board picked their top two choices of the remaining finalists and their votes were tabulated. They then read over staff and public feedback for the candidates. The board discussed the pros and cons of their top choices taking staff and public feedback into consideration.

MOTION: By Commissioner VanderVelde, supported by Commissioner Botts, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids agree to offer the position of Director of the Grand Rapids Public Library to John McNaughton.

The board further discussed McNaughton.

ACTION: AYES 6 (Anderson, Baldrige, Botts, Brewer, VanderVelde, Witteveen-Lane) – 0

Motion passed.

Warner told the board that Botts and Jason Hendrix could handle the negotiations.

MOTION: By Commissioner Baldrige, supported by Commissioner Witteveen-Lane, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids agree to hire John McNaughton at \$117,000 and to allow Botts and Hendrix to handle any negotiations.

ACTION: AYES 6 – 0

Motion passed.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: By Commissioner VanderVelde, supported by Commissioner Brewer, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the minutes of the regular and special board meetings of January 25, January 26, January 30, February 6 and February 20, 2018.

ACTION: AYES 6 – 0

Motion passed.

7. BOARD COMMENTS

Botts stated that he is concerned about Lehnert’s absences and asked Beatty to look into how to formally address his concerns.

Baldrige stated that the board may need to establish a meeting attendance policy.

Warner stated that she and Beatty will write Lehnert a letter from Botts regarding her absences and send it to her via certified mail.

Witteveen-Lane gave kudos to the staff for all the exceptional work in this month’s report.

VanderVelde commented on how excited she was for the upcoming programs.

Baldrige stated that he was impressed with Taste of Soul Sunday and commented that parking was difficult again this year.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments.

9. STAFF & FOUNDATION REPORTS

A. Statistical Report for January 2018

No comments.

B. Staff Changes Report

No comments.

C. Interim Library Director's Report

Anderson asked if the library's digital collection is still within its capabilities. Warner replied that the FY2019 budget, to be voted on later in the meeting, has an increase for the digital collections.

D. Financial Report

Adcock stated that he, Ehlers, and Warner attended the budget meeting with the city and that it went well.

E. Communications Report

No comments.

F. Foundation Update

Poortenga stated that Taste of Soul Sunday was a great event. He also reminded the board of the foundation's White Glove event in April and that the funds raised will go to library programming.

Botts thanked Poortenga for being a part of the director search process.

10. OLD BUSINESS

A. Budget FY 2019

Adcock gave the board his updates.

Anderson asked if the additional funds set to go towards digital resources were in the "Books and Materials" line. Adcock replied that they were.

MOTION: By Commissioner VanderVelde, supported by Commissioner Anderson, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget.

ACTION: AYES 6 – 0

Motion passed.

B. YMCA Preschool Contract

MOTION: By Commissioner Baldrige, supported by Commissioner Brewer, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids to approve Facility Use Agreement between Grand Rapids Public Library and the Young Men's Christian Association of Greater Grand Rapids and for the Library Interim Director sign the contract.

ACTION: AYES 6 – 0

Motion passed.

C. Parking Lot Discussion

The board discussed Naramore and Wood’s presentation.

Baldrige suggested that the board get legal advice and a legal opinion from outside of the city and suggested Varnum Law since they have worked with the library in the past. VanderVelde and Witteveen-Lane agreed.

Brewer suggested that the board get the input from the city and then go outside to get a different point of view.

Anderson stated that this multi-use structure could be a good project to partner with the city.

Botts stated that he would like to get Wood’s opinion in writing then talk about it at next month’s board meeting.

MOTION: By Commissioner Baldrige, supported by Commissioner VanderVelde, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids agree to seek outside legal advice from Varnum Law regarding the ownership and control and management of the Main Library parking lot.

ACTION: AYES 6 – 0

Motion passed.

Botts asked the board to send him their questions by Monday, March 5 so he can have Warner send them to Wood and the legal advisor at Varnum Law by Tuesday, March 6.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Parking System Update Bids

MOTION: By Commissioner Botts, supported by Commissioner Anderson, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids agree to purchase the Amano OPUS 7700 Traffic & Safety control Systems, Inc for \$82,469.

ACTION: AYES 6 – 0

Motion passed.

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Media Index

No comments.

B. Board & Administrator, February 2018

No comments.

C. Tax Abatement Updates

No comments.

13. GRAND RAPIDS EMPLOYEES INDEPENDENT UNION

Meyering stated that the GREIU is looking forward to working with McNaughton.

14. AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING: MARCH 27, 2018

Jessica Wood – opinion

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

Meeting adjourned at 5:22 pm.