

**MINUTES
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
May 18, 2021 – 5:00 pm
Virtual Meeting**

Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm.

1. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Rachel Anderson, Deborah Bose, James Botts,
Kelly Boston, Sophia Brewer, Kathryn Dilley

Board Members Absent:

Administration Present: Robert Adcock, John Bosma, Jason Hendrix, Kristen Krueger-Corrado,
John McNaughton, Briana Trudell, Jen Vander Heide, Patrick Beatty

Staff Present: Cheri Cornell, Nephtali Gomez, Bob McVay, Madison Perian

Public Present: Shelia García Mazari, Heather Stachura, Marla Wick, BoLC Candidates;
Amy Alber, GREIU; Shirley Gagnon Allen, GRPLF

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: By Commissioner Brewer, supported by Commissioner Boston, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the minutes of the regular and special board meetings on April 27, 2021.

ACTION: AYES 6 – 0

Motion passed.

4. BOARD CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

The board interviewed Shelia García Mazari, Heather Stachura, and Marla Wick.

5. BOARD COMMENTS

Dilley stated that she's an alumni of Ottawa Hills and she appreciates the depiction of the building. She also appreciated that DGR reached out to the library and that attention is being given to collections and access.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments.

7. STAFF & FOUNDATION REPORTS

A. Library Director's Report

Dilley requested more information about the Story Stroll project. McNaughton stated that he will get her more information later.

He added that Communications will be doing headshots and to contact Trudell.

Anderson asked if reaching out to the Disability Advocates regarding the accessibility of the hold lockers was due to a patron suggestion. Vander Heide stated that it was staff making sure that the lockers were physically accessible. Botts asked about braille. McNaughton stated that they would look into it.

McNaughton asked Bosma to explain the library's new solar chargers. Bosma told the board that the library's partner StreetReach had brought to the library's attention that they have trouble contacting their patrons and asked if they could help with the lending of solar chargers so that people can keep their phones charged. Botts asked if the City could help with this initiative. McNaughton replied that they have not reached out to individual commissioners but they are in talks with the City about helping with the houseless community.

B. Financial Report

Anderson asked if there will be more payments for the HVAC. Adcock stated that they will have some more payments coming out of the capital funds.

C. Foundation Update

Dan Poortenga sent McNaughton a written update:

The Foundation continues to progress on our special GRPL 150 mailpiece to raise awareness and funds. Several library staff members have assisted with input on the piece and the designer has welcomed our suggestions! Stay tuned!

Gagnon Allen provided additional details around the mailer.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Candidate Selection

Krueger-Corrado sent a poll for the board to complete with their top choice. The top choice was Garcia Mazari.

Brewer, Boston, and Dilley stated that they were all good candidates and would like to let them know that they don't have to be on the board to be advocates and be involved with the library.

Anderson stated that she will convey their sentiments to Stachura and Wick.

MOTION: By Commissioner Boston, supported by Commissioner Bose, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids agree to appoint García Mazari to the Board of Library Commissioners.

ACTION: AYES 5 – 0 (Botts abstained)

Motion passed.

Anderson stated that she will reach out to the candidates.

B. Board Training

Anderson stated that due to COVID-19, the board hasn't been able to do much training in the past year and thinks that training could be especially useful in regards to LGBTQ+ community.

Anderson stated that she talked with McNaughton about training in this area later in the summer. She added that upper management could be included in the trainings as well. Botts suggested that the board look at what the library can do to understand the intersectionalities of the houseless community as well.

The board stated that they would be interested in a LGBTQ+ training.

Brewer stated that there's been ongoing conversations regarding the houseless community and suggested that the library try to work with the City.

Anderson stated that she would like to make sure the library pays for this training. Brewer asked that the board receive an outline of what the training is and requested that, if possible, the trainer would include a follow-up training as a check-in.

Anderson stated that she will gather some information and bring it back to the board.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Reopening Discussion

McNaughton summarized the changes to the board and added that this has been based on what they've been seeing in the past month.

The board, McNaughton, and Bosma discussed more details of the expansion and the adjusted services.

Anderson asked how patrons and staff have been handling the CDC and the State of Michigan lifting the mask mandate. McNaughton replied that they are still requiring masks to enter into the buildings. McNaughton stated that they are going to pay attention to the quickly updating guidelines and adjust accordingly by keeping front-facing staff and patrons as safe as possible.

MOTION: By Commissioner Brewer, supported by Commissioner Botts, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids agree to proposed expanded hours and access beginning Monday, June 7, 2021.

ACTION: AYES 6 – 0

Motion passed.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Media Index

No comments.

B. Statistical Report for April 2021

No comments.

C. Staffing Report

No comments.

D. Board & Administrator, May 2021

No comments.

11. GRAND RAPIDS EMPLOYEES INDEPENDENT UNION

No comments.

12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING: JUNE 22, 2021

Botts asked about the partnership with Mercy Health and Spectrum Health. McNaughton stated that the staff have connected.

Anderson stated that they will watch the numbers and decide later on if they will be meeting in person.

Brewer stated that they could set up a schedule for different trainings at the June meeting. Anderson asked if they know of facilitators to bring a list to the June meeting.

Training opportunity: cultural competency, LGBTQ+, houselessness as a series

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

14. ADJOURNMENT

No comments.

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.