

MINUTES
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
June 22, 2021 – 5:15 pm
111 Library St NE – Board Room

Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

1. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Rachel Anderson, Deborah Bose (arrived 5:25), James Botts, Kelly Boston, Sophia Brewer, Kathryn Dilley, Sheila García Mazari

Board Members Absent:

Administration Present: Robert Adcock, John Bosma, John McNaughton, Briana Trudell, Patrick Beatty

Staff Present:

Public Present: Steven Assarian, GREIU

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: By Commissioner Botts, supported by Commissioner Brewer, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the minutes of the special board meeting on May 18, 2021.

ACTION: AYES 6– 0

Motion passed.

4. BOARD COMMENTS

Anderson welcomed García Mazari and explained the board comments sections.

Botts asked McNaughton where GRPL stands with the jail library. McNaughton replied that they had run into a couple of issues prior to the COVID-19 pandemic; a lack of funding and the fact that it is a county jail which means that it's in KDL's service area. He added that their contact at the county jail has not been able to be reached. Botts stated that the bulk of those incarcerated in the county jail are Grand Rapids residents. Botts asked that McNaughton reach out to KDL to work towards a jail library. McNaughton stated that he would like for the board to agree for him to move forward. McNaughton and the board talked about the logistics of the relationship between the organizations.

Brewer added that she appreciates Botts's passion around this topic and suggested that he submit a formal proposal to the board that will lay out a plan to move forward. Anderson added that Botts should explore grants since this could be an expensive project. Anderson asked for Botts to put together the information and talk to her about putting it on the agenda for discussion.

Dilley stated that she likes the things that she's read in the Director's Report, mainly for the youth programming, and thinks it is a great way to support the community.

Brewer agreed with Dilley and asked about big projects and initiatives to welcome patrons back into the buildings. McNaughton replied that the library doesn't have anything large planned outside of the Mobile Library being more present in the community in addition to Summer programming.

Boston noted that she was happy to see that the Hispanic Heritage programming team met with Eleanor Moreno of Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities and she's happy that the library is partnering with them.

García Mazari stated that she was glad to see the updates to the spaces. She also stated that she would like to see staff reach out to additional areas in the community other than the Southwest side for Latinx input.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Anderson stated that now with a full board it's time to talk about filling committees. The board agreed to fill the committees next meeting. The committees that need to be filled are: Legislative/Advocacy, Policy Review, GRPL Foundation Representatives, and Board Retreat/Training.

6. STAFF & FOUNDATION REPORTS

A. Library Director's Report

McNaughton gave the board an update on the library reopening. This included that GRPL's physical checkouts have exceeded digital and that GRPL To Go is slowing down significantly.

McNaughton stated that the library is looking into applying for an equipment grant that would allow the library to purchase hold lockers and could allow the library to put one at a non-GRPL location.

B. Financial Report

Adcock stated that the FY21 year-end report will be in the August board packet and that next month they will have a summary of what he thinks the year-end will look like.

C. Foundation Update

Anderson stated that she was at the GRPLF meeting. They are raising funds for the 150 anniversary and will be sending a donation request letter that will unfold into a poster for donors to keep.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Anderson stated that she contacted a professor to host a two-part training for the board and executive staff that will be an introduction into LGBTQ+ issues.

Anderson and Trudell will work together to create a doodle poll to send to the board with potential dates and times.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs Grant Application

McNaughton gave an overview of the grant.

MOTION: By Commissioner Botts, supported by Commissioner Boston, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the GRPLF to submit the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs grant application for FY22.

ACTION: AYES 7 – 0
Motion passed.

B. Budget Amendment

McNaughton gave the board an overview of the proposed positions.

McNaughton and the board then discussed the two proposed positions and what their roles in the organization would look like.

MOTION: By Commissioner Brewer, supported by Commissioner Botts, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the Office Assistant position and \$60,899 for the FY22 budget amendment, effective June 22, 2021 and to table the Project Management position until more information is available.

Brewer stated that she would like to table the Project Manager position until the board receives more specific information around their tasks, responsibilities, and requirements.

ACTION: AYES 4 (Bose, Botts, Brewer, Dilley) – ABSTAIN 3 (Anderson, Boston, García Mazari) – NO 0

Motion passed.

MOTION: By Commissioner Anderson, supported by Commissioner Boston, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the Project Manager position in the amount of \$91,133.

Anderson withdrew her motion.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Media Index

No comments.

B. Statistical Report for May 2021

No comments.

C. Staffing Report

No comments.

D. Professional Development and Travel Opportunities for Next Fiscal Year

No comments.

E. Board & Administrator, June 2021

No comments.

10. GRAND RAPIDS EMPLOYEES INDEPENDENT UNION

Assarian asked how many positions the Assistant Director position would be split into. McNaughton stated that there is no official splitting of the Assistant Director position.

Assarian asked questions regarding the Office Assistant Mobile Library Driver position to which McNaughton replied.

11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING: JULY 27, 2021

Committee appointments (enclosure).
Project Manager Position.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

13. ADJOURNMENT

No comments.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.