

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS  
April 26, 2022 – 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, James Botts,  
Sophia Brewer, Kathryn Dilley, Sheila Garcia Mazari

Board Members Absent: Kelly Boston (with notice)

Administration Present: Robert Adcock, Jessica Anne Bratt, John McNaughton,  
Briana Trudell, Patrick Beatty

Staff Present: Katie Zychowski

Public Present: Jennifer Kasper, Josh Naramore, Tai Verbrugge, Mobile GR, City of  
Grand Rapid; Steve Ronla, Fishbeck; 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 regular board meeting of March 29, 2022.**

Garcia Mazari stated that her name was misspelled in a motion. Trudell stated the error will be corrected.

**ACTION: AYES 6 – 0**

**Motion passed.**

**4. BOARD COMMENTS**

No comments.

**5. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Garcia Mazari stated that she and Brewer met to discuss the board retreat and that with the new board members joining in the new year, the retreat should take place in February. She also mentioned that they would like to discuss what the baseline could be for the director evaluation as well as other evaluation mechanisms.

Garcia Mazari mentioned a possible partnership opportunity with a group lead by Annie Bélanger, GSVU's Dean, University Libraries, that can help with vision and values.

## 6. STAFF & FOUNDATION REPORTS

### A. Library Director's Report

McNaughton stated that he is putting a pause on the Nexus Technology report at this time. He then updated the board on what the organization is doing and the changes to the Nexus team. He continued that many things in the report produced were incomplete and that they would update the board when they got a more complete report.

Anderson asked if the technology situation was more complex than was initially thought. McNaughton stated that it is more complicated than he and Bratt had additionally thought and that the leadership team is still in the discovery phase. Bratt added that there are short-term and long-term issues and due to the long-term investment they want to ensure they are doing it right.

Brewer stated that she appreciates that McNaughton and the library staff are looking ahead for the technology needs of staff and the community. She also commented that the library's open source integrated library system (ILS) is not widely known and that the two staff who work on it are probably the best since they were early adopters. She added that it would behoove the library to look into their next ILS before the experts retire.

Brewer also stated that she saw set images from Grand Stand Pictures filming of the City Within A City Documentary and noted how instrumental GRPL, and especially GRHC, is in production of the documentary. She noted that she appreciates how they have cultivated the history of our city.

Anderson asked McNaughton if the MDHHS have increased the number of testing kits to give to patrons since the report was written. McNaughton replied it has not increased but the library is hoping that it will increase shortly.

### B. Financial Report

Botts asked Adcock how much the DDA capture is. Adcock replied that the DDA captures between \$700-800K and the library now gets 15% back and it will continue to increase as the years go on. Brewer added that the rebate is helpful.

### C. Foundation Update

Poortenga was unable to attend the meeting so he sent this update for the record:

*At today's meeting, the GRPL Foundation Trustees approved all seven grant requests presented by GRPL staff totaling over \$59,000 for the fall of fy23. Trustees appreciated the exciting new programs and the information provided by staff!*

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Parking Structure Discussion

Naramore told the board that they presented to the City's Committee of the Whole earlier in the day and added that it looks like it might go on the backburner for now. Naramore continued that They will keep using the charrette and there is a possibility of doing another request for proposals next year.

Brewer stated that this is a great opportunity to engage with patrons to see what their needs are before this project moves forward next year. She added that it also gives the library an opportunity to look at other funding sources so the library can expand itself. Anderson agreed with Brewer and added that there's so much more opportunity.

García Mazari asked Naramore if the river amphitheater was still in the works and how it would affect this project. Naramore replied that the amphitheater design was older and that they are looking for more of a flexible public use space.

Naramore told the board that he will get the charrette results to them in the near future.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. HVAC Discussion**

McNaughton gave the board background on the HVAC needs at the West Side Branch.

Dilley asked if the control panel was old and for more details around the dysfunction. Dahlman replied that the controls are 27 years old and no one services them. He added that this project was scheduled for FY23.

**MOTION: By Commissioner Botts, supported by Commissioner García Mazari, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve for Andy Egan Co to replace the HVAC and boiler control system at the West Side Branch, not to exceed \$100K.**

**ACTION: AYES 6 – 0**

**Motion passed.**

**B. Nexus Technology Presentation**

No comments.

**9. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Media Index**

No comments.

**B. Staffing Report**

No comments

**C. Board & Administrator, April 2022**

No comments.

**D. Statistical Report for March 2022**

No comments.

**10. GRAND RAPIDS EMPLOYEES INDEPENDENT UNION**

Assarian stated that they started bargaining with the library on April 13 and will meet again tomorrow.

**11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING: MAY 25, 2021**

No comments.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

No comments.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:54 pm.**