

MINUTES

Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids

October 25, 2022 – 5:15 pm

111 Library Street NE – Reading Room

Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:16 pm.

1. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Rachel Anderson, James Botts, Kathryn Dilley, Sheila García Mazari

Board Members Absent: Sophia Brewer (without notice), Deborah Bose, Kelly Boston (with notice)

Administration Present: Robert Adcock, Jessica Anne Bratt, John McNaughton, Meryl Wilsner, Megan Luptowski

Staff Present: Cameron Holmes

Public Present: Steven Assarian, GREIU; Dan Poortenga, GRPL Foundation

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: By Commissioner Botts, supported by Commissioner García Mazari, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 30, 2022.

ACTION: AYES 4 – 0

Motion passed.

4. BOARD COMMENTS

García Mazari says the JCLC conference was canceled so she did not attend.

Dilley speaks to being proactive rather than reactive in policy and community engagement and feels the Library is doing well.

Anderson shares the report from the Trustee Roundtable hosted by the Library of Michigan and says it was very informative. She feels they are an excellent resource, both the roundtables and their website.

Anderson also went to the Michigan Library Association Conference this past weekend with McNaughton. Both felt the most important session was on intellectual freedom and institutional support if book challenges occur. Botts asks how many books have been challenged here. McNaughton says the last one was over a year ago. Anderson asks about staff being up to date on procedures and McNaughton confirms there has been much discussion.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Anderson discusses proposals for consulting and coaching from Inner Citadel Consulting. The consultant was recommended to García Mazari. He attended a previous committee meeting and provided proposals that he could offer to meet our needs. Anderson sees the value of bringing in someone trained in this. It

will be on the agenda for next month. Botts asks some questions regarding the proposal and Anderson and García Mazari clarify.

Policy committee did not meet over the past month.

6. STAFF & FOUNDATION REPORTS

a. Library Director's Report

McNaughton discusses the Fishbeck presentation, which will be pushed to a later meeting after the steering committee is able to meet.

Botts questions whether Justice at Work is required for everyone. McNaughton says it's strongly encouraged. This is part of Bratt's larger initiative to increase staff training at all levels. McNaughton will look into whether board members can take part as well.

García Mazari expresses excitement for the new website. McNaughton agrees, confirming the app will also be updated.

b. Financial Report

Adcock speaks to the financial report. Expenses are on track. Botts expressed disappointment that DGRI doesn't give the Library more money. Adcock confirms it is going up.

c. Foundation Update

Poortenga explains that GRPL was awarded a \$24,000 grant from Michigan Arts and Culture Council (formerly known as MCACA) for FY23 School Years Literature Programming which includes One Book, One City for Kids and Summer Reading Program.

GRPL Foundation Emeritus Trustee, Tom Dilley, passed away last month. He served on the Board from 2008-2016 including a term as Board Chair. He was an advocate of the library and donated some of his personal collections to GRPL History Center—most notably 5,000 historical postcards in 2017. Condolences to his sister, board member Kathryn Dilley.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Fishbeck Presentation

McNaughton indicates a steering committee meeting is necessary. The presentation will be rescheduled.

b. Human Rights Policy Discussion

Botts asks if we can wait for the full board. Anderson says she would like it introduced but then tabled. McNaughton summarizes the background. Dilley appreciates materials that have been provided so it's clear the discussion relies on more than personal opinion. Anderson says if board members find more information they would like to share with everyone, they can do so. McNaughton is glad the board will discuss this later after having time to review and process the materials.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Resolution to Approve Proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement for Grand Rapids Employees Independent Union

McNaughton clarifies that there was incorrect wording in the funding previously approved by the Board.

MOTION: By Commissioner Botts, supported by Commissioner García Mazari, the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the revised collective bargaining agreement with the GREIU for Rank & File Unit, Supervisory Unit classifications, and non-represented classifications, through June 30, 2025.

ACTION: AYES 4 – 0

Motion passed.

b. Resolution to Approve Proposed Temporary Closure of Library Branches on December 5, 2022 for Budget Capacity and Planning Management Workshop

McNaughton explains the yearly budget planning. The best way to get staff input is to shut the buildings down for a portion of a day so all managers can come together to discuss. Bratt answers questions regarding staff hours and schedule, and she confirms project ideas will come from all members of staff.

McNaughton thanks Bratt and Megan Biggins for putting this all together.

MOTION: By Commissioner Botts, supported by Commissioner Dilley, the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the temporary closure of the Main Library, the Seymour Branch, West Leonard Branch, and Yankee Clipper Branch until 3:00 pm on Monday, December 5, 2022.

ACTION: AYES 4 – 0

Motion passed.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Media Index

No comments.

b. Staffing Report

No comments.

c. Statistical Report for August 2022

García Mazari compliments the Small Business Center that is called out in the report.

10. GRAND RAPIDS EMPLOYEES INDEPENDENT UNION

Assarian is glad bargaining is finally wrapped up. Contract will be available for signing soon.

11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING: November 29, 2022

No comments.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

Anderson suggests people go to the book sale for Friends of the GRPL and reminds people to vote.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Commissioner Botts, supported by Commissioner Garcia Mazari, the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids adjourn.

AYES: 4 - 0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm.