

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS  
April 25, 2023 – 5:15 pm  
111 Library St NE – Board Room**

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

**1. ROLL CALL**

Board Members Present: Rachel Anderson, Kelly Boston, Kathryn Dilley, Sheila García Mazari, Kristin Kopec, Lauren Woolsey

Board Members Absent: Deborah Bose (without notice)

Administration Present: Robert Adcock, Jessica Anne Bratt, John McNaughton, Meryl Wilsner, Patrick Beatty

Staff Present: John Bosma, Sabrina Slenk

Public Present: Steven Assarian, GREIU

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION: By Commissioner García Mazari, supported by Commissioner Dilley, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of March 28, 2023 and the special board meeting April 13, 2023.**

**ACTION: AYES 6 – 0**

**Motion passes.**

**4. BOARD COMMENTS**

Kopec asks about the Resource Navigator appearing at this meeting. McNaughton confirms.

Boston apologizes for missing the special meeting. Anderson expresses pleasure that Woolsey ran into Andrew Johnson and he came to the meeting. She appreciates McNaughton reaching out to him as well.

McNaughton speaks to the decision tree discussed at the special meeting. Executive staff need more direction from the board. McNaughton believes staff and the board should work on this together. Anderson speaks to the policy issues facing the board and wonders if there could be a standing committee of the whole meeting for policy issues. Boston asks if some of the policy meetings could be at different branches. The board supports the idea and wants to ensure it's not a burden on the branches.

**5. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No comments.

**6. STAFF & FOUNDATION REPORTS**

**a. Library Director's Report**

McNaughton thanks the board for the review. He gives background on the community services presentation and explains he may continue to have staff from different departments come in and introduce themselves to the board to let them know what they do. Dilley expresses favor for the idea.

Woolsey loved the report on the kid-led book club. Boston agrees.

Anderson feels events are drawing more people and participation. Bratt agrees that we've noticed high engagement levels. Boston likes that people already have library cards. She would love to see what percentage of schools we're reaching in GRPS and whether there are any that aren't being served as often. Bratt says she will look into the data on that.

**i. Community Services Manager Presentation**

McNaughton introduces Bosma and Slenk from the Community Support and Safety Department. Bosma explains what the department does, then introduces Slenk, who started in her position in November 2022. Slenk provides a presentation on her work, which includes connecting vulnerable patrons to resources and managing safety situations, including post-situation management. Besides responding to issues, the department has also taken steps forward on infrastructure and training.

Boston asks about Slenk's office hours at other branches and how they are advertised to patrons. Slenk sends out a schedule one month in advance so all branches know where she will be so they can let patrons know. Woolsey asks if the recent increase in referrals to Slenk is because of more issues or more trust. Slenk believes it's both trust and word of mouth. Anderson asks about resources provided to front-facing staff regarding their own stress and trauma; she's especially curious if the board can help make anything more available to part-time staff. Bosma indicates there's training the library provides, then Bosma and Slenk do post-situation management, and can refer staff to the Employee Assistance Program. Anderson asks Bratt specifically about occupational and organizational therapists that she's been looking into. Bratt explains she's gathering ideas to figure out what paths are available.

Kopec asks if Slenk works with the mobile crisis response unit out of Network 180 and Slenk confirms. The board thanks Slenk and Bosma.

**b. Financial Report**

Adcock mentions the Downtown Development Authority rebate rate changed.

**c. Foundation Update**

Anderson says there was a meeting today but Poortenga will report next month.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Social Media Policy Approval**

**MOTION: By Commissioner García Mazari, supported by Commissioner Boston, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the Library aligning its social media policy with that of the City of Grand Rapids with the amendment regarding the wording of policy applicability.**

Effective date would be today. Woolsey questions wording differences on 6(d)(5). Beatty indicates the difference may be due to federal law. McNaughton suggests adopting the policy as is and then reviewing with the legal team regarding consistency of the language.

García Mazari points out a wording issue on page one. The board adjusts wording from “applies to appointed members” to “applies to members.” Beatty approves.

**ACTION: AYES 6 – 0**

**Motion passes.**

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Removal of Board Member**

**MOTION: By Commissioner Woolsey, supported by Commissioner Kopec, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids remove Commissioner Deborah Bose from the Board due to non-attendance of meetings, effective April 25, 2023.**

Boston expresses appreciation for Bose’s service and sadness for this being how it is ending. Anderson says the board was lucky to have Bose for the time she was able to give.

**ACTION: AYES 6 – 0**

**Motion passes.**

**b. Interdepartmental Van Purchase**

**MOTION: By Commissioner Kopec, supported by Commissioner Dilley, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the purchase of a 2023 Chrysler Pacifica for interdepartmental use.**

Adcock speaks to the one option available to the library. Woolsey asks the price difference from what was in the budget; Adcock indicates it’s \$5,000.

**ACTION: AYES 6 – 0**

**Motion passes.**

**9. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**a. Media Index**

No comments.

**b. Staffing Report**

No comments.

**c. Statistical Report for March 2023**

No comments.

**10. GRAND RAPIDS EMPLOYEES INDEPENDENT UNION**

Assarian speaks to anticipation of CA to LA conversion.

**11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING: MAY 30, 2023**

Foundation update.

Dilley wonders if meetings can include standing updates on ongoing projects such as the one with the Grand Rapids Children's Museum.

Printed copies of presentations by any department will be available at future board meetings.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: By Commissioner García Mazari, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids adjourn this meeting.**

No comments.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm.**