

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS  
August 29, 2023 – 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, Kelly Boston, Kathryn Dilley, Sheila García Mazari, Kristin Kopec, Kevin Peterson, Lauren Woolsey

Board Members Absent:

Administration Present: Robert Adcock, Megan Biggins, John Bosma, Jessica Anne Bratt, Lindsay Laplow, John McNaughton, Ann Neff-Rohs, Meryl Wilsner, Patrick Beatty

Staff Present: Erin Hart

Public Present: Dan Poortenga, GRPLF  
Steve Assarian, GREIU  
Lex Smits

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Patron Smits spoke regarding decorum in the library.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS ON APRIL 25, 2023 AND AUGUST 15, 2023, AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING ON JULY 25, 2023**

**MOTION: By Commissioner Kopec, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the minutes of the special board meeting of April 25, 2023.**

**ACTION: AYES 6 – 0, ABSTAIN 1**

**Motion passed.**

**MOTION: By Commissioner Kopec, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the amended minutes of the special board meeting of August 15, 2023.**

Amendment of second vote from 4-3 to 4-2.

**ACTION: AYES 6 – 0, ABSTAIN 1**

**Motion passed.**

**MOTION: By Commissioner Woolsey, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of July 25, 2023.**

**ACTION: AYES 6 – 0, ABSTAIN 1**

**Motion passed.**

**4. BOARD COMMENTS**

Anderson issued a public apology to applicants for the open BoLC position who weren't informed in a timely manner they were not chosen.

Boston spoke to a staff member's health.

Kopec welcomed Peterson to his first meeting. Anderson spoke to procedure. Peterson thanked the board.

Dilley spoke to library staff's successful outreach work and mentioned the increased number of incidents in the year end reports. Anderson suggested this be discussed during its time on the agenda.

**5. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Anderson indicated agenda items double as the policy committee's report. She mentioned that the legislative committee, including Kopec and Peterson, will become more active.

García Mazari discussed a speaker on Intellectual Freedom coming to do a presentation for the board.

**6. STAFF & FOUNDATION REPORTS**

**a. Library Director's Report**

McNaughton spoke to the report.

**i. STEAM Center Update**

McNaughton shared that Fishbeck had a listening session with community members. He and Anderson spoke regarding the timeline.

**b. Financial Report**

Adcock spoke to report. The year end report for last fiscal year will be at the next meeting.

**c. Foundation Update**

Poortenga commented that trustees approved all grant requests presented by the library and announced a \$1.6 million donation from a past board member's family foundation. The parties involved met with McNaughton last week.

**d. Rebranding Update**

Bratt provided an update and answered the board's questions related to the rebrand.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Renumber Policy 40-5 to Policy 40-8**

**MOTION: By Commissioner García Mazari, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the renumbering of Policy 40-5 Smoke- and Vape-Free Facility and Grounds to Policy 40-8, with the same text and title.**

**ACTION: AYES 7 – 0**

**Motion passed.**

**b. New Policy 40-5 (enclosed)**

**MOTION: By Commissioner Woolsey, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the new Policy 40-5 Intellectual Freedom Guidelines for Elected and Appointed Commissioners of Grand Rapids Public Library.**

**ACTION: AYES 7 – 0**

**Motion passed.**

**c. Number Social Media Policy 50-3**

**MOTION: By Commissioner Woolsey, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the numbering of the Social Media Policy as 50-3.**

**ACTION: AYES 7 – 0**

**Motion passed.**

**d. Upcoming Policy Committee Goals**

Woolsey discussed the future goals of the policy committee. García Mazari discussed improving director review, and Anderson offered suggestions.

**e. Half Day Budget Workshop**

This was removed from the agenda.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

No comments.

**9. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**a. Year End Reports**

McNaughton discussed the security report. Bosma spoke to report. Board asked questions; Bosma, Biggins, McNaughton answered. The city's Employee Assistance Program was discussed.

Anderson summarized that the board wants to help regarding staff burnout and other issues related to increased security incidents.

**b. Media Index**

No comments.

**c. Staffing Report**

García Mazari expressed gratitude for Hispanic being included as a diversity category.

**d. Statistical Report for July 2023**

Anderson commended Rebecca Near for her work on these reports. Boston asked for an image version to share on socials.

**10. GRAND RAPIDS EMPLOYEES INDEPENDENT UNION**

Assarian confirmed staff safety issues related to increased security incidents.

**11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING: SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

No comments.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments.

**13. Adjournment**

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

No comments.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:23 pm.**