

**MINUTES
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
July 27, 2021 – 5:16 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 5:22), James Botts, Kelly Boston, Sophia Brewer, Kathryn Dilley, Sheila García Mazari

Board Members Absent:

Administration Present: Robert Adcock, John Bosma, Jessica Anne Bratt, Kristen Krueger-Corrado, John McNaughton, Rebecca Near, Briana Trudell, Patrick Beatty

Staff Present: Meghan Pitsch

Public Present: Steven Assarian and Jeanessa Smith, GREIU; Dan Poortenga, GRPL Foundation; Kelaine Mish, Resident

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: By Commissioner Botts, 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 June 22, 2021.

ACTION: AYES 6 – 0

Motion passed.

4. BOARD COMMENTS

García Mazari asked how the book nooks were being stocked. Bratt replied that the library is purchasing books for the organizations.

Anderson stated that it is nice to see all of the programming around the Summer Reading Challenge and she likes that we are using the city parks.

Boston asked for more information about the school library pilot project with Stocking Elementary. Bratt explained that Liz Sterling, the former West Side Branch Manager, was able to establish relationships with the school and provide them with information about the library and its services. Bratt added that she hopes to grow the relationships and support the schools in the future.

Brewer mentioned using the Board Comments agenda item as a way to discuss how the board has advocated for GRPL, to discuss their connections, and to use the Director's Report agenda item as a way to talk about what they like. Anderson stated that she would implement that idea.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments.

6. STAFF REPORTS

a. Library Director’s Report

McNaughton stated that he wanted to highlight the recently added positions that are unique to GRPL in his report. He asked the staff who hold those positions to give a short presentation to the board. Brewer thanked him for the update.

Anderson asked if the HireReach program would include disability as well as other aspects in the hiring process. McNaughton stated that it would.

b. Financial Report

Adcock stated that the library is in the middle of closing out fiscal year 2021 and he’ll give the board the exact numbers next month.

Boston asked about the turnover in part-time staff. McNaughton stated that the turnover number is not unusual at this time.

c. Foundation Update

Poortenga stated that the foundation couldn’t have an event due to the COVID-19 pandemic and added that in its place to raise funds, they hired a designer to create a birthday card that unfolds into a whimsical map of the city that will be mailed. He stated that the funds raised will go towards the 150 Celebration and library resources. Poortenga thanked Krueger-Corrado and her team for their help in coordinating the look and feel of the card so it could match the library’s 150 Celebration brand.

Poortenga stated that the foundation will receive grant requests in August.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Committee Assignments and Foundation Board Appointment

Budget Review

Committee of the whole

Legislative/Advocacy

Boston

Dilley

Brewer

Policy Review

Dilley

García Mazari

Anderson

GRPL Foundation Representatives

Bose

Anderson

Botts

Board Retreat/Training

Boston

Brewer

García Mazari

Anderson stated that she’ll connect with the committees to check in and asked them to plan what their goals are for the year.

8. NEW BUSINESS

No comments.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Media Index

No comments.

b. Statistical Report for June 2021

No comments.

c. Staff Changes Report

No comments.

d. Board & Administrator, July 2021

No comments.

10. GRAND RAPIDS EMPLOYEES INDEPENDENT UNION

No comments.

11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING: AUGUST 31, 2020

Announcements: the first board training for LGBTQ+ Inclusivity is Friday, July 30 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm with the second part on Monday, August 2 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

August 3 is a local election in support of a school millage.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kelaine Mish, Resident addressed the board.

13. ADJOURNMENT

No comments.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.