

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS  
February 22, 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, Kelly Boston, James Botts,  
Sophia Brewer, Kathryn Dilley, Sheila Garcia Mazari

Board Members Absent:

Administration Present: Robert Adcock, John Bosma, Megan Biggins, Jessica Anne Bratt,  
John McNaughton, Briana Trudell, Jen Vander Heide, Patrick Beatty

Staff Present: Meghan Elwell, Julie Tabberer

Public Present: Steven Assarian, GREIU; Mark Schute  
Jennifer Kasper and Josh Naramore, GR Mobile & Parking Services

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

No comments.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING ON JANUARY 18, 2022**

**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 January 18, 2022.**

**ACTION: AYES 7 – 0**

**Motion passed.**

**4. BOARD COMMENTS**

Bose stated that she attended last month's GRPLF meeting and was impressed with all of the things they are doing for the library.

Boston stated that she's impressed with the vinyl collections and the engagement that it's creating, including with teens. Dilley and Anderson added their praise to the vinyl collection as well.

Dilley stated that it's interesting for staff to get a different point of view of the library.

Garcia Mazari informed the board that Tuesday, March 1 is Michigan library advocacy day and she will send information to the board regarding the day and the opportunities that it presents.

Brewer stated that she has had people tell her that there is a long wait for the record players and asked if there are plans to get more record players to allow for more patron usage. Vander Heide replied that they have ordered more and will continue to do so if needed.

**5. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No comments.

**6. STAFF & FOUNDATION REPORTS**

**A. Library Director's Report**

Anderson asked if the library was adding hold lockers at other locations because the Ottawa Hills lockers are often full. McNaughton replied yes.

Dilley asked if the library plans to install menstrual vending machines in all locations. Biggins stated that it is the goal and they will check in on the usage and costs at three and six months to plan for the next iteration.

Brewer stated that she was glad the library was able to take advantage of American Rescue Plan Act funds and buy more eBooks for the library's collection.

Brewer asked if there were plans to digitize the weeded materials from the Grand Rapids History Center's weeding project because she's concerned that the library could lose valuable historical content. Tabberer replied that the collection has never been weeded and there was collection development creep; some of the materials in the collection don't fit in with the History Center's collection scope and those are the main materials that will be weeded. She added that they plan to ensure that the information that is weeded is accessible at other organizations or online, and if that isn't the case they'll try to donate them to an organization that would be a better home for them.

Brewer stated that she would like the EDI report to highlight what the library is doing and she challenged the library to keep doing more.

Boston stated that she appreciated the partnership with SafeHaven.

**B. Financial Report**

No comments.

**C. Foundation Update**

No comments.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Parking Structure Discussion**

Naramore told the board that he and McNaughton have been in contact regarding the project and will continue to meet and get GRPL feedback. He then updated the board around the project, stating that they are slowing down the process to allow the new Deputy City Manager to become familiar with it and they are still collecting survey responses from the community. He told the board that they would receive the responses in a report in the near future as they don't have all of them and the online survey is still open.

**B. COVID-19 Hours of Operation**

McNaughton told the board that the proposed date will help with new staff onboarding.

**MOTION: By Commissioner Brewer, supported by Commissioner Botts, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids resume GRPL's regular hours effective Monday, March 14, 2022.**

**ACTION: AYES 7 – 0**

**Motion passed.**

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Budget Information Review**

Anderson reminded the board that this is just a presentation of the budget and that discussion and approval will take place at the March meeting. McNaughton stated that if any of the board members want to discuss the budget to contact him and set up a meeting.

McNaughton then gave the board an overview of the library's priorities and how they tie into the budget. Adcock thanked the staff for all of their work and feedback regarding the process. He added that he's grateful for the support of the community.

McNaughton introduced staff to speak on large topics as part of the proposed FY23 budget. Vander Heide provided details on the Digital Librarian I position proposal. Bosma provided more details on the Resource Navigator/Safety Coordinator position proposal. Elwell provided information on the hold locker expansion and hotspot projects. Tabbeber provided more information about the custom software for the Grand Rapids History Center to support digital newspaper access for our patrons. Bratt provided details on the technology projects for the public and the upcoming author series.

Brewer stated that she wanted to ensure that there was a plan for other librarians to support the digital librarian. McNaughton stated that is the route they are planning to take.

Brewer stated that we don't know how the library's physical space will be used in the future and stated that the library needs to be responsible with the funding to ensure we are adjusting with the changes. McNaughton stated that the library will be doing a deep dive into the use of the spaces.

## **9. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. Media Index**

No comments.

### **B. Staffing Report**

No comments.

### **C. *Board & Administrator, February 2022***

Anderson stated that this publication has become repetitive over the years and she's recommending that the library let the subscription expire and look into something more robust. The board agreed.

### **D. Statistical Report for January 2022**

No comments.

**10. GRAND RAPIDS EMPLOYEES INDEPENDENT UNION**

Assarian stated that they had their first bargaining meeting scheduled and are looking forward to bargaining in good faith.

He stated that the change back to the library's regular hours has been communicated well with staff and added that staffing is still tight for front-facing staff.

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

No comments.

**13. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

No comments.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm.**