

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS  
July 26, 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, Sophia Brewer, Kathryn Dilley, Sheila García Mazari (arrived at 5:19 pm)

Board Members Absent: James Botts (with notice)

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

Staff Present: Steve Assarian, Julie Tabberer, GREIU

Public Present:

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

No comments.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION: By Commissioner Brewer, supported by Commissioner Bose, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of June 21, 2022.**

**ACTION: AYES 5 – 0**

**Motion passed.**

Anderson's name is misspelled in the second paragraph of the second page.

**4. BOARD COMMENTS**

Boston asks for election drop box locations. McNaughton says the boxes are located at the Van Belkum, Ottawa, West Leonard, and Seymour branches. Anderson reminds attendees to vote on Tuesday.

Bose enjoys reading the monthly Director's Report.

**5. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Anderson provides updates regarding the meeting of the Policy Committee and adds that the committee will meet again next month.

**6. STAFF REPORTS**

**a. Library Director's Report**

McNaughton welcomes the new Executive Administrative Assistant, Meryl Wilsner. Wilsner provides an introduction and says they are happy to join the library. They will be doing a writing workshop for the library's Writers & Readers series this week.

Anderson compliments the June 28 Writers & Readers event. Dilley also attended the event and enjoyed it.

Brewer discusses the CBS Sunday Morning segment on modern libraries and their spaces. She would like to watch the report with the rest of the board. Beatty will email the episode to the Board.

**b. Financial Report**

Adcock explains there are a few more weeks to close out FY22 so he hopes to have final numbers in the next couple weeks.

Anderson asks about the projected revenue and spending of capital funds. Adcock explains that we will need the funds for continuing projects in FY23.

García Mazari asks if pricing will change because of supply chain issues. Adcock says yes, pricing will likely increase and the library is prepared for that.

**c. Foundation Update**

Poortenga is unable to attend but emailed an update to McNaughton, who reads it aloud:

"The Foundation Board is saddened by the passing of our Trustee and library supporter, Marilyn Titche. Marilyn was the longest serving Library Foundation Trustee—21 years. Her legacy to our library system includes the Small Business Resource Center which assists all residents in acquiring access to information to start a business and improve their personal lives and our community. Marilyn loved Grand Rapids and has left a lasting impact."

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

No comments.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Conversion Therapy**

Boston appreciates the Board exploring this topic. She speaks of harm caused by conversion therapy and lists partners who have also signed on to support the ban. She would like the Board to consider adding the library's name as a supporter of the ban. Anderson questions the extent of the ban and Boston indicates the movement is working to ban conversion therapy both within the entire state of Michigan and within the city of Grand Rapids.

Brewer would like this decision and resolution language to be rooted in science and tied back to the Constitution. She suggests explicitly tying policies and procedures to the Constitution whenever possible. McNaughton states the draft resolution will include credible sources. Anderson and Boston will work together to craft a resolution.

**b. Policy 10-2 Revisions**

Anderson explains the changes from gendered pronouns to gender-neutral pronouns and the change to the Public Comments sections.

**MOTION: By Commissioner Dille, supported by Commissioner García Mazari, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the revisions to the GRPL Board of Library Commissioners Policy Manual, Policy 10-2, Rules and Procedures.**

McNaughton explains it may be helpful to have public comments at the beginning and end of the meeting.

Amendments to restore "M. Public Comments" at the end of the meeting and add "N. Adjournment."

Boston expresses her appreciation of the removal of gendered pronouns.

**ACTION: AYES 6 – 0**

**Motion passed.**

**9. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**a. Media Index**

Boston questions what a social media comment on study rooms was regarding. McNaughton indicates it was likely in response to the new Zoom Rooms at the Main branch.

Anderson and Brewer discuss a Library of Things in response to a social media comment regarding baking pans. Bose mentions a seed library. The Board is enthusiastic about a Library of Things.

**b. Statistical Report for June 2022**

No comments.

**c. Staffing Report**

No comments.

**10. GRAND RAPIDS EMPLOYEES INDEPENDENT UNION**

Assarian explains GREIU and GRPL have been unable to come to an agreement but are close. He believes an agreement will come in the next round of mediation. Tabberer adds the GREIU wage increase request is due to the needs of staff. She indicates tentative agreements on a number of key things and looks forward to a complete agreement.

**11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING: AUGUST 30, 2022**

Banning conversion therapy.

Year end reports.

Additional Board of Library Commissioners policy revisions.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

No comments.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm.**