

**MINUTES
Board of Library Commissioners
of the City of Grand Rapids
November 29, 2022 – 5:15 pm
Regular Board Meeting**

Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

1. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Rachel Anderson, Kelly Boston, James Botts,
Sophia Brewer, Kathryn Dilley, Shelia Garcia Mazari

Board Members Absent: Deborah Bose (without notice)

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

Staff Present:

Public Present: Steven Assarian, GREIU; Dan Poortenga, GRPLF

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING ON OCTOBER 25, 2022

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 October 25, 2022.

ACTION: AYES 6 – 0

Motion passed.

4. BOARD COMMENTS

Brewer apologizes for missing the last meeting; she had the flu. It was her first time in seven years being absent.

Anderson congratulates Brewer on being a member of the MLA Board of Directors. Brewer has been on the MLA board since May but the GRPL board had just learned of the accomplishment.

Botts speaks about Together West Michigan. He says it's an important piece of public activism that the future board should consider joining.

Boston apologizes for missing the last meeting and thanks the Board for their grace in her attending a parent teaching conference. Boston thanks Library staff for opportunities she sees as a parent.

Anderson celebrates the new hold lockers at the West Side and Seymour Branches.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board retreat/new member training committee will meet soon.

6. STAFF & FOUNDATION REPORTS

A. Library Director's Report

McNaughton provides an update on the potential partnership with Grand Rapids Children's Museum. McNaughton and Anderson represent GRPL on the project's steering committee, which also has representatives from GRCM, Fishbeck, and the city. Fishbeck will provide a proposal that includes an evaluation on the Library's facilities by early next year. McNaughton is optimistic about the partnership but indicates it is early on in the process.

García Mazari comments that the Día de los Muertos celebrations went well.

Anderson asks questions regarding LibConnect. Bratt explains the system. Botts and Dilley question further. Bratt further explains.

Boston appreciates noise-reducing ear muffs in section two of the report and the commitment to accessibility.

B. Financial Report

Adcock explains the report. Various projects are discussed, including door replacement and elevator projects, which will require more funding.

C. Foundation Update

Poortenga says that the Library Foundation was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Wege Foundation for circulating hot spots and diversity programming. This includes programming highlighting African American, Hispanic, and, new this year, Asian Pacific Islander heritages, as well as One Book, One City for Kids. The Wege Foundation's program director gave many accolades to GRPL's recent Día de los Muertos Festival, saying it was very authentic and reminded her of the celebration in Mexico.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval of Staff Feedback/Leadership Coaching - Peter Anderson

MOTION: By Commissioner Botts, supported by Commissioner Boston, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids agree to utilize Peter Anderson for Staff Feedback/Leadership Coaching.

Board discusses the rationale and cost of bringing Peter Anderson in. Botts expresses support for doing so, and Anderson comments that the price is lower than she expected.

García Mazari asks McNaughton's thoughts. He shares.

ACTION: AYES 5 - 0 - 1, Brewer abstains

B. Human Rights Policy Discussion

Anderson gives background of this topic. Language around censorship already exists within the manual. Boston indicates censorship is a different discussion than whether the Board wants to issue an explicit human rights policy. ALA does have a statement on human rights. Bratt and McNaughton discuss how an explicit policy would help safeguard staff. Incoming board members may like to be involved. Topic is tabled to revisit in the new year with new board members and potentially a committee to draft a human rights statement.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Nominating Committee Appointment

Brewer speaks to what's involved in this position. Dilley volunteers.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Media Index

No comments.

B. Staffing Report

No comments.

C. Statistical Report for October 2022

No comments.

10. GRAND RAPIDS EMPLOYEES INDEPENDENT UNION

Assarian updates board regarding contract.

11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING: DECEMBER 13, 2022

No comments.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

13. Adjournment

MOTION: By Commissioner García Mazari, supported by Commissioner Botts, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm.