

**MINUTES
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
January 31, 2023 – 5:15 pm
111 Library St NE – Board Room**

Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:16 pm.

1. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Rachel Anderson, Kelly Boston, Kathryn Dilley, Sheila García Mazari (5:26 pm), Kristin Kopec, Lauren Woolsey

Board Members Absent: Deborah Bose (without notice)

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

Staff Present: Julie Tabberer

Public Present: Steven Assarian, GREIU;
Dan Poortenga, GRPLF
William Baldrige, Chris Byron, Melissa Fox, Adam Oster,
Thomas Wilson

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Baldrige comments that the agenda was unavailable on the website until last Friday.

Fox, current coordinator for History Detectives, thanks the library for supporting the program.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: By Commissioner Boston, 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 December 13, 2022.

ACTION: AYES 5 – 0

Motion passes.

4. BOARD COMMENTS

New board members Woolsey and Kopec introduce themselves and are welcomed and thanked for their service.

Boston mentions a patron she spoke to who really enjoys the new app. She also expresses her satisfaction with the board book selection at the Main Library.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments.

6. STAFF & FOUNDATION REPORTS

a. Library Director's Report

McNaughton indicates change to the agenda: new business item E will no longer be an actionable item.

Boston expresses excitement over free hygiene supplies. McNaughton indicates there has been a positive response and it's a pilot program the library would like to expand.

Anderson is glad to see connections in LibConnect.

b. Financial Report

Adcock explains that the FY24 budget presentation will be next month, then the following month it will be voted on. He answers the board's questions regarding the financial report.

c. Foundation Update

Poortenga speaks about the Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation's meeting last week. They approved all FY23 grant requests submitted by GRPL staff. Some were for returning programs and some for new.

7. OLD BUSINESS

No comments.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Carol Dawe Library Co-Op Presentation

McNaughton introduces Carol Dawe, who gives a presentation about board development. She says she's impressed with the library's mission statement and the board's manual. Dawe thanks the board for their service, and the board thanks Dawe for the presentation.

b. Election of Board Officers

Beatty indicates a roll call vote is appropriate given that the candidates are unopposed.

MOTION: By Commissioner Woolsey, supported by Commissioner García Mazari, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve Rachel Anderson as the Board President for 2023.

ACTION: AYES 6 – 0

Motion passes.

MOTION: By Commissioner Woolsey, supported by Commissioner Kopec, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve Kelly Boston as the Vice President/Secretary for 2023.

ACTION: AYES 6 – 0

Motion passes.

c. Committee Assignments and Foundation Board Appointments

Anderson discusses committee assignments and requests that anyone wanting to join a new committee or switch committees speak to her after the meeting.

d. BoLC Policy Manual Reaffirmation

McNaughton speaks to the annual practice of reaffirmation policy manual. Woolsey clarifies what's being reaffirmed.

MOTION: By Commissioner García Mazari, supported by Commissioner Boston, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids reaffirm the Board of Library Commissioner Policy Manual for 2023.

ACTION: AYES 6 – 0

Motion passes.

e. Proposed Reduction of Grand Rapids History Center Service Hours

McNaughton discusses challenges that the Grand Rapids History Center (GRHC) has been facing lately and invites Tabberer, the GRHC Librarian III, to speak. She explains the proposal for reduced service hours and what it would accomplish, including balancing the public services work with the collections work, both of which are core to what the GRHC does.

Tabberer and McNaughton answer the board's questions regarding the proposal. McNaughton indicates Tabberer will provide additional information to the board and other groups that may be concerned about the reduction of hours. Because of that, this is not an actionable item tonight. McNaughton wants to ensure all parties have the information necessary before this is approved.

f. Grand Rapids History Center Database Budget

McNaughton explains this is informational, as the project went slightly over budget. Adcock indicates it was \$5,000 more than expected.

g. Social Media Policy Approval

McNaughton explains that the City recently adopted a social media policy and suggests the library adopt it as well. Anderson would prefer the policy be tailored to the library before it is approved. This is tabled until the policy committee can complete a library-specific draft.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Media Index

Woolsey would like to see more information on what platforms social media comments are coming from.

b. Staffing Report

No comments.

c. Attendance Record 2022

No comments.

d. Voluntary Commitment to Serve, Conflict of Interest, General and Emergency Contact Form

Anderson indicates board members should fill these out and give them to Wilsner before leaving tonight.

e. Statistical Report for December 2022

No comments.

11. GRAND RAPIDS EMPLOYEES INDEPENDENT UNION

Assarian states that the contract is ready to be signed. Anderson thanks him for his work.

12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING: FEBRUARY 28, 2023

ALA Midwinter Conference Report
Budget Information Review

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Baldrige speaks regarding the charter and board responsibilities. He took photos of things he says are being missed in terms of maintenance of the building. He reaches the time limit for speaking and says he will leave photographs with the board.

Byron, a retired employee and member of the History Detectives planning committee, speaks to the proposed reduction in hours of the GRHC, which to her seems drastic. Fox agrees, and thanks Tabberer and McNaughton for pausing the action on the GRHC to allow for more conversation.

Olster, from the Library of Michigan, speaks about the organization's relationship with the History Detectives program. He says the collection here is invaluable and stewardship of the resources is essential.

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 6:24 pm.