

**MINUTES
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
February 28, 2023 – 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, Kelly Boston, Kathryn Dilley
Sheila García Mazari, Kristin Kopec, Lauren Woolsey

Board Members Absent: Deborah Bose (without notice)

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

Staff Present: Julie Tabberer

Public Present: Amy Alber, Steven Assarian, Julie Beukema, GREIU
Jeanessa Smith, City of GR
Sophia Brewer

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING ON JANUARY 31, 2023

MOTION: By Commissioner Kopec, supported by Commissioner Woolsey, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of January 31, 2023.

García Mazari has a correction on last name on 8b.

ACTION: AYES 6 – 0

Motion passed.

4. BOARD COMMENTS

Boston had taxes done at the library. It was nicely done.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The policy committee met to discuss the social media policy with McNaughton and Zychowski. García Mazari says legal consultation is needed. Policy committee has their next meeting set. McNaughton says in the meantime the library is following their typical practice.

Boston says the board retreat committee has settled on an evening in April for the retreat. García Mazari discusses a separate half day at some point where a member of the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom joins. Because the ALA conference is coming up in June, it may be a while before it can be scheduled.

6. STAFF & FOUNDATION REPORTS

a. Library Director's Report

McNaughton discusses halting any changes to Grand Rapids History Center (GRHC) hours. The library is having listening sessions with organizations that are involved with the GRHC. Woolsey asks about the timeframe and McNaughton says it's still being worked out.

McNaughton would like to bring in Sabrina Slenk, the new Resource Navigator, and John Bosma to a board meeting to talk about some of the challenges the library has been facing regarding security and public welfare. Boston appreciates seeing what the Main Library is dealing with in terms of patrons struggling with mental health. Woolsey and García Mazari discuss the mindfulness boxes mentioned in the director's report.

McNaughton updates the board on facilities audits. The city-run facilities audit hasn't begun yet but should within the fiscal year. Fishbeck has done listening sessions at the Main Library and said they had a gold mine of great feedback. McNaughton and Anderson will go to the final listening sessions with Fishbeck.

McNaughton updates on the technology audit with Dewpoint, which is completing their first phase of their assessment.

García Mazari expresses gratitude for programming with the African American community.

b. Financial Report

No comments.

c. Foundation Update

No comments.

7. OLD BUSINESS

No comments.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Budget Information Review

The budget presentation will occur today, but the budget will not be voted on until the next meeting. McNaughton emphasizes that the board should feel comfortable asking questions.

Adcock gives context around budgeting with a deficit. Biggins discusses the Clerical Aide to Library Assistant conversion and answers the board's questions on the topic. Bratt discusses Further Degree, who was brought in regarding strategic project planning, and explains that the library would like to work with them again next fiscal year. McNaughton discusses the previous budget process and how this year's has improved on it. Zychowski discusses the rebrand, which she hopes to publicly launch by the end of the year, though she says this is ambitious. Bratt gives an update on the technology assessment and discusses tracking strategic framework expenditures through a new reporting procedure.

McNaughton again emphasizes any time within the next month board members can schedule a meeting to ask questions and further discuss the budget.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Media Index

No comments.

b. Staffing Report

Anderson asks about turnover and McNaughton answers that it is standard. Woolsey asks why there is an opening for a Clerical Aide when those positions will be converted, and Biggins explains the library wants to be fully staffed rather than wait to hire until the conversion is complete.

c. Statistical Report for January 2023

No comments.

10. GRAND RAPIDS EMPLOYEES INDEPENDENT UNION

Tabberer reads a statement regarding a grievance. Assarian hands out hard copies of the statement. Assarian expresses appreciation for the Clerical Aide to Library Assistant conversion.

11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING: MARCH 28, 2023

No comments.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brewer expresses disappointment that Taste of Soul Sunday was removed as a program. She feels the library is doing less than it used to. Brewer wants to support staff and challenges board and leadership to change the workplace culture.

Dilley asks a question regarding the grievance but Anderson indicates it's not appropriate for the board to ask questions at this time in the agenda. McNaughton indicates grievance can be discussed once filed.

Assarian says the grievance is an opportunity for the library to demonstrate its values.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Commissioner Dilley, supported by Commissioner Kopec, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm.