

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

March 25, 2025 | 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, Justine Bryant,
Kathryn Dilley, Bryan Holt, Kevin Peterson,
Lauren Woolsey (arrived at 5:16 pm)

Board Members Absent:

Administration Present:

Robert Adcock, Megan Biggins, John Bosma,
Natalie Drew, Lindsay Laplow, John McNaughton,
Ann Neff-Rohs, Patrick Beatty

Staff Present:

Matt Black, Andrea Cosier, Wyatt Lardie

Public Present:

Steven Assarian, GREIU

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING ON FEBRUARY 25, 2025

MOTION: By Commissioner Holt, supported by Commissioner Boston, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of February 25, 2025.

Boston comments that the last line of Page 5 "Library Pages" should be plural.

ACTION: AYES 6 – 0

Motion passed.

3. BOARD COMMENTS

Anderson comments that former Library Commissioner Deb Bose passed away yesterday. She extends her condolences to the family and thanks Deb for her services to the Library and the Board.

Peterson thanks Boston for organizing the Board Retreat and thanks CEO Steff Rosalez for hosting the Board at Grandville Avenue Arts and Humanities (GAAH) Cook Library Center.

Boston comments that her daughter's daycare center contacted GRPL to set up a special storytime for their group and Librarian Betsy Zandstra who performed the storytime was fantastic.

Anderson addresses federal funding cuts to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and explains that IMLS funds MeLCat (Michigan eLibrary Catalog), so this could potentially remove MeLCat from libraries all across the state. She urges those who can, to contact legislators. McNaughton clarifies that we are working with other entities with how GRPL will respond in case MeLCat is removed. Boston states that she is happy to share scripts with the Board for calling legislators if needed.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Legislative

Peterson says they had their second meeting where they created the handout detailing how to connect with legislators and policy makers. He adds that he is thankful that the library is hosting Mayor Mondays.

Woolsey comments that she and Bryant attended the third ward Mayor Mondays event and she also attended the MLA Advocacy Hour.

b. Policy

No comments.

c. Board Retreat

Anderson thanked Boston for coordinating the Board Retreat on March 15. Boston thanked the Board and Steff Rosalez at GAAH.

5. STAFF & FOUNDATION REPORTS

A. Library Director's Report

i. GRCM Collaboration

McNaughton states there is a draft of an MOU in the hands of the Deputy City Manager. He adds that he will have a larger update at the next Board meeting regarding the path forward in the partnership.

McNaughton comments that he, Adcock, and Neff-Rohs presented the FY26 budget to the City.

Regional Branch Manager Andrea Cosier presents on the Seymour Branch. Boston comments that she loves the hold lockers at the Seymour Branch.

Community Services Manager John Bosma presents on the increase in incidents at the Main Library as well as the changes being made to increase security measures. Holt asks if we will post signs that the new sensors are in the bathroom and if we will be alerting the general public that these additional measures are being taken. McNaughton and Bosma answer. Boston asks if the key phrases that the bathroom sensors detect are only in English. Bosma answers. Boston asks for Spanish to be added. Peterson comments that he appreciates the work that Bosma is doing. Bryant asks about an increase in security officers at the West Side Branch. Bosma answers that security is being added only at the Main Library for now.

McNaughton states that GRPL and GREIU contract negotiations have begun.

B. Financial Report

Peterson asks for clarity on the “within 3%” comment within the financial summary under expenditures. Adcock answers.

C. Foundation Update

No comments.

6. OLD BUSINESS

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Director Evaluation Documents

Anderson explains the process for the Director’s Evaluation. Boston clarifies that the data being used also includes staff feedback.

The Board confirms that the Special Meeting on April 29 begins at 3:30 pm.

Woolsey states that Board comments from step 2 of the procedure need to be sent to Anderson by April 25.

B. Budget Approval

MOTION: By Commissioner Woolsey, supported by Commissioner Boston, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the proposed FY26 Budget and Fee Schedule.

Bryant requests an additional \$5,000 for ASL and Spanish translators. McNaughton comments that \$4,000 was added to the FY26 budget for these services. Anderson states that we will increase this to \$5,000 next fiscal year.

Peterson asks what is involved in the Management Allocations line. Adcock answers.

Anderson asks what the most important change in the budget for FY26 is. McNaughton answers that the internal work that is happening will continue into FY26. Adcock states that maintenance costs have increased quite a bit as well.

Peterson adds that it looks like we have some flexibility in our budget if needed.

Dilley asks about the interest on investments. Adcock answers.

Anderson asks about which lines in the breakdown represent federal funding. McNaughton answers. Adcock says that federal funding is roughly 1% of our budget.

ACTION: AYES 7 – 0

Motion passed.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Media Index

No comments.

B. Staffing Report

No comments.

C. Statistical Report for February 2025

No comments.

9. GRAND RAPIDS EMPLOYEES INDEPENDENT UNION

No comments.

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING: APRIL 29, 2025

- Director Evaluation (Special Meeting)

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Commissioner Woolsey that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm.