

MINUTES
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

April 29, 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, Lauren Woolsey
Board Members Absent:	Bryan Holt (with notice), Kevin Peterson (with notice)
Administration Present:	Robert Adcock, Megan Biggins, Natalie Drew, Lindsay Laplow, John McNaughton, Jen Vander Heide; Patrick Beatty
Staff Present:	Erin Hart, Wyatt Lardie, Aubrey Wagg
Public Present:	Steven Assarian, GREIU; Jax Johnson; Joshua Vissers, Rapidian/Documenters

MOTION: By Commissioner Woolsey, supported by Commissioner Bryant, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids add an action item to approve the Legislative Committee making updates and working with the GRPL Communications Department on the document communicating Board meetings to the public to the New Business portion of the current agenda.

No comments.

ACTION: AYES 5 – 0

Motion passed.

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

MOTION: By Commissioner Bryant, 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 March 25, 2025.

No comments.

ACTION: AYES 5 – 0

Motion passed.

3. BOARD COMMENTS

Boston states that she visited the Redford District Township Library and suggests that the Board visit as well.

Anderson thanks Peterson and Bryant for attending the Mayor Monday that was hosted at the Main Library.

Woolsey states that she liked the Power of Poetry Showcase and is looking forward to the documentary about poetry in Grand Rapids.

Dilley comments that she attended former Library Commissioner Deb Bose's memorial service last weekend. McNaughton adds that it was nice. Boston thanks McNaughton for sharing her obituary with the Board.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Legislative

Woolsey states that they met and are keeping up a calendar of the events for Grand Rapids elected officials. Boston asked if the Legislative Committee is sharing all of the events with the Board. Woolsey answers yes.

Woolsey adds that a first draft of the language inviting the public to Library Board meetings will be voted on in New Business.

b. Policy

Anderson comments that the Policy Committee should meet with McNaughton over the Summer.

c. Board Retreat

Boston asks if the Board would like a second Board Retreat. Woolsey asks to table this until all Library Commissioners are present.

5. STAFF & FOUNDATION REPORTS

A. Library Director's Report

i. GRCM Collaboration

McNaughton states that GRPL and the City have finished their portions of the MOU and the Children's Museum is still working on their portion, which is due May 1.

ii. GRPL + GREIU Contract Negotiations

McNaughton states they have met 3 times and they are currently discussing economics. Their next meeting is May 6.

Anderson comments on the story of 120 people learning how to crochet at the GRPL program.

Boston comments on how important weeding books are to keep collections updated.

Anderson states that the Friends of the Library Book Sale went well this past weekend. McNaughton agrees and says that it was very successful.

B. Financial Report

Adcock states that GRPL is in a good position with just a couple months left of the fiscal year.

C. Foundation Update

GRPL Foundation President Dan Poortenga sent the following statement: "The Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation is pleased to have approved nine grant requests totaling over \$135,000 last week to the library! This funding will support the Poet Laureate, Hispanic Heritage, and Native American Heritage programs. It will also allow for the purchase of more eBooks and local history materials, and cover the majority of the annual payment for the Grand Rapids Press Historical Archives database. The GRPLF Board is appreciative to library staff for the detailed grant requests and evaluations that were submitted."

6. OLD BUSINESS

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: By Commissioner Woolsey, supported by Commissioner Bryant, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the Legislative Committee to make updates and work with the GRPL Communications Department on the document communicating Board meetings to the public.

Woolsey discusses that the big focus for this document will be the City Commission Night Out in July. She explains that the purpose of the document is so the public can show up to Library Board meetings at the right time. She adds that the Legislative Committee will work with the Library Director of Communications to finalize the document.

Anderson asks what size the document will be. Woolsey answers.

The Board decides they will list library Commissioner names only on 8 ½ X 11 documents.

Boston suggests changes to grammar.

Anderson suggests that the Library adds a wayfinding sign in the lobby for Board meetings.

ACTION: AYES 5 – 0

Motion passed.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Media Index

No comments.

B. Staffing Report

No comments.

C. Statistical Report for March 2025

Bryant gives kudos to the staff making community connections.

9. GRAND RAPIDS EMPLOYEES INDEPENDENT UNION

No comments.

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING: MAY 27, 2025

Anderson states that she will not be present at the May meeting.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jax Johnson comments in support and encouragement of having a hand out for information about Board meetings.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:38 pm.