

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

February 24, 2026 | 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

Board Members Absent:

Administration Present:

Robert Adcock, Lindsay Laplow, John McNaughton,  
Jen Vander Heide, Katie Zychowski;  
Patrick Beatty

Staff Present:

Megan Biggins, Meghan Elwell, Erin Hart

Public Present:

Jayros Diaz

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE RESCHEDULED BOARD MEETING ON FEBRUARY 3, 2026

**MOTION:** By Commissioner Woolsey, supported by Commissioner Peterson, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the minutes of the rescheduled Board meeting of February 3, 2026.

No comments.

**ACTION:** AYES 7 – 0

**Motion passed.**

#### 3. BOARD COMMENTS

Boston states that she attended the Lunar New Year Celebration at the Seymour Branch and enjoyed the event. She adds that State Representative Kristian Grant reached out regarding getting more library cards to children in the community. Boston forwarded Grant's contact information to McNaughton and staff. Boston notes continued censorship attempts in school libraries and other states, mentioning a new website with a target list of titles.

Woolsey comments that a patron reached out about concerns navigating the space at the Main Library, specifically finding nonfiction versus fiction sections.

Anderson announces that the film *The Librarians* will be shown for free at Wealthy Theatre, March 4.

#### 4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### a. Legislative

Bryant states the committee will meet Friday.

##### b. Policy

No comments.

##### c. Board Retreat

For the April Board Retreat, Boston states the discussion topics will focus on community engagement and is working with McNaughton to book Lakeland Library Cooperative Director Carol Dawe as a presenter.

Holt and Boston discuss the possibility of a fall Board retreat. Holt suggests inviting local agencies to speak about resources available within the Library for the unhoused. Boston states she'll communicate dates for a fall retreat as soon as possible.

#### 5. STAFF & FOUNDATION REPORTS

##### A. Library Director's Report

McNaughton notes the budget proposal for FY27 is located within the Board packet, and asks the Board to contact him with questions. He thanks the Board members who gave feedback on tonight's proposed Strategic Plan and thanks all contributing staff for their work. He also congratulates Zychowski and the Communications team for winning 4 American Advertising Awards.

Anderson asks for more information on how GRPL supports English Language Learners and if other language support is needed in addition to Spanish. Vander Heide answers that language needs are localized; for broader support, the Library has focused on the Spanish language. McNaughton states he'll follow up with Anderson. Anderson asks if there's support for ASL. Bryant notes a need for increased ASL support in the community.

##### B. Financial Report

Adcock states that we should see Taxes-Assessments Cancelled (line 2) return to normal amounts in future periods.

Adcock comments that the Unemployment Compensation (line 20) rate set in the new financial system was incorrect and has been reset. He adds that he is having conversations about the overcharge being reimbursed to us. Woolsey asks where the reimbursement will come from. Adcock says he believes it will be the City. McNaughton commends Adcock for his continued communication with the City.

**C. Foundation Update**

No comments.

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Budget Information Review**

Anderson asks the Commissioners to review the budget carefully and reach out to McNaughton with any questions.

Adcock states that we would like the new fee schedule to go into effect in March. Vander Heide noted that there was a change to the fee schedule that clarifies that the first 50 free pages of printing per week are for library cardholders.

Adcock notes that there may be some adjustments to the FY27 budget prior to March due to updated information. He thanks all of the staff for working on the budget with him and thanks the community for their support. He concludes that there is a review of the budget with the City Manager scheduled.

Peterson asks for a clarification on whether Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities is "GAAH" within the document. Adcock confirms.

**B. GRPL Strategic Plan FY28-32**

McNaughton thanks everyone for taking the time to talk individually with him. He appreciates the support and hard work that goes into planning for the Library's future.

**MOTION: By Commissioner Boston, supported by Commissioner Holt, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the GRPL Strategic Plan FY28-32.**

Woolsey comments that the plan is very forward-thinking. She's excited to introduce it to the Grand Rapids community.

Boston says that it's nicely done and is looking forward to its future implementation.

Anderson likes the openness between what the staff thought and the community thought and states that the plan feels achievable.

McNaughton thanks Method & Craft, the committee, and staff. He also thanks Vander Heide for spearheading the work.

**ACTION: AYES 7 – 0**

**Motion passed.**

**C. One Book, One City Presentation**

McNaughton introduces Teen Librarian, Erin Hart. Hart presents GRPL’s annual reading program, One Book, One City for Kids.

Hart clarifies that if any board member or executive staff would like to attend the events, she will provide information on how to do so.

Holt states that activity number 4 on the teacher’s guide is a beautiful introduction to another culture and language. He commends Hart and thanks her for the work.

Boston asks if there are accommodations in other forms of material, such as audiobooks. Hart answers yes. Boston asks if there will be ASL translation at the events. Hart answers that she will look into this and follow up.

Woolsey thanks Hart for the book and appreciates the teacher’s guide as well.

Hart adds that there are also Family History kits that kids can take home that connect to the theme.

**8. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Media Index**

Anderson asks if we received feedback on our inclement weather closures. McNaughton answers that we have not had further feedback. Boston suggests partnering with play cafes since parents need a space for their children when schools and libraries close due to weather.

**B. Staffing Report**

No comments.

**C. Statistical Report for January 2026**

No comments.

**9. GRAND RAPIDS EMPLOYEES INDEPENDENT UNION**

No comments.

**10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING: MARCH 31, 2026**

- Director Evaluation Documents (E)
- Budget Approval (E, A)

**11. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm.**