

MINUTES
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

November 19, 2024 | 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 (arrived at 5:16 pm), Kevin Peterson (arrived at 5:17 pm), Lauren Woolsey
Board Members Absent:	
Administration Present:	Robert Adcock, Megan Biggins, Natalie Drew, Lindsay Laplow, John McNaughton, Ann Neff-Rohs, Jen Vander Heide, Patrick Beatty
Staff Present:	Erin Hart
Public Present:	Steven Assarian, GREIU; Dan Poortenga, GRPLF; Steff Rosalaz, GAAH; Rob Cullen, Janet Nelson, ReThinking Libraries

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING ON OCTOBER 29, 2024

MOTION: By Commissioner Woolsey, 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 October 29, 2024.

No comments.

ACTION: AYES 4 – 0

Motion passed.

3. BOARD COMMENTS

Woolsey comments that she attended the Grand Rapids: A Poetry City event at GRPL. She adds that she learned a lot and enjoyed having so many poet laureates in the room.

Anderson thanks the Grand Rapids for voting for her in the election and she is looking forward to serving another 6 years on the Library Board. She adds that she is looking forward to working with Justine Bryant, as well as continuing to serve with Kevin Peterson, who were both also elected.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Legislative

Peterson proposes that the Legislative Committee have their meetings at different branches within the three wards of Grand Rapids. He suggests that they space the meetings throughout 2025 and reach out to policy makers. Anderson comments that the board used to have breakfast meetings with different political figures. The board agrees that the Legislative Committee can further discuss what dates and times will work best. McNaughton comments that we can start coordinating this with the branches.

b. Policy

Laplow explains her work on updating the Policy Manual to reflect GRPL's new brand and expects to send it to the committee by the end of the week.

Anderson asks if the committee can meet before the December regular meeting to finalize the revisions. Woolsey answers yes, and that she believes that they can get the Policy Manual finished for approval at the December regular meeting.

c. Board Retreat

Boston comments that she will miss García Mazari being part of this committee. She confirms that they are still aiming for March 2025 to hold the retreat.

5. STAFF & FOUNDATION REPORTS

A. Library Director's Report

McNaughton introduces ReThinking Libraries. Nelson and Cullen thank the board and explain the work they are doing at GRPL. They add that the community sessions began today and they have been going well so far.

McNaughton reminds the board that we have our Fall Staff Day tomorrow and all branches will be closed.

McNaughton introduces Neff-Rohs to talk about the bills that have been introduced to the Michigan House of Representatives. Neff-Rohs presents the Freedom to Read Act and shares that local Representative Glanville sponsored this Act. Peterson asks if anyone at GRPL was consulted. Neff-Rohs answers that she is on the MLA committee. Woolsey clarifies that the vote for these bills are for the house and not the senate. Boston clarifies that these bills are not for school libraries. García Mazari comments that she is glad to know this was a priority for Representative Glanville.

Peterson asks McNaughton how the MLA conference was. McNaughton answers that he will give a written summary shortly.

McNaughton announced that he is now serving as the Board President at the Lakeland Library Cooperative. The board congratulates him.

i. GRCM Collaboration

No comments.

B. Financial Report

Adcock comments that due to the short turnaround this month, he will include November's financial numbers at the next regular board meeting. Adcock concludes that we have received the personal property taxes and we have a few budget amendments coming forward next month.

C. Foundation Update

Poortenga comments that Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation (GRPLF) has rebranded to follow GRPL's rebrand in order to convey their partnership with GRPL. The board comments that they like the new branding.

Anderson asks Poortenga when the next GRPLF meeting will be. Poortenga answers that early December is a trustee meeting and the next granting meeting is at the end of January.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Board Replacement of Resigning Member

Anderson explains where we are at in the process and suggests each board member name their top picks. She adds that if the board is all in agreement, they can invite the candidates in for interviews.

The board agrees that they will invite Bryant Holt and Ericka Lozano-Buhl for interviews.

García Mazari thanks Peterson for the matrix he created.

Woolsey thanks all of the applicants for applying.

Anderson comments that she will work with Laplow to invite the candidates to the December regular meeting.

Peterson confirms that we will be sending the candidates the interview questions ahead of time. The board discusses the questions and agrees that they are good as they are, with one additional question added.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities Presentation

Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities (GAAH)'s CEO Rosalez presents an organizational overview to the board.

Boston asks if there is anything that the board can do to help support GAAH. Rosalez suggests they visit the spaces and continue to support McNaughton in his work partnering with GAAH.

The board thanks Rosalez.

B. Nominating Committee Appointment

Anderson asks if Dilley is willing to lead this again. Dilley agrees and asks the board to let her know if they would like to run for President or Vice President after the meeting.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Media Index

No comments.

B. Staffing Report

García Mazari asks if we are waiting to hire the Librarian IV position until after the staffing assessment is complete. McNaughton answers that we may move forward before the study is complete.

Woolsey asks when we expect preliminary reports from ReThinking Libraries. McNaughton answers that we will likely receive them at the end of February.

Boston congratulates Biggins on serving 3 years at GRPL.

C. Statistical Report for October 2024

No comments.

9. GRAND RAPIDS EMPLOYEES INDEPENDENT UNION

No comments.

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING: DECEMBER 17, 2024

- Approval of 2025 Meeting Schedule
- Closing Calendar
- BoLC Policy Manual Updates
- Appointment of Board Member

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm.