

MINUTES
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

December 17, 2024 | 4:00 pm*
111 Library St NE | Board Room

Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

1. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:	Rachel Anderson, Kelly Boston, Kathryn Dilley, Sheila García Mazari, Kevin Peterson (arrived at 5:07 pm), Lauren Woolsey
Board Members Absent:	
Administration Present:	Robert Adcock, Megan Biggins, Lindsay Laplow, John McNaughton, Ann Neff-Rohs, Jen Vander Heide, Patrick Beatty
Staff Present:	
Public Present:	Bryan Holt, Ericka Lozano-Buhl, Greg Lozano-Buhl; Steven Assarian, GREIU; Dan Poortenga, GRPLF

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING ON NOVEMBER 19, 2024

MOTION: By Commissioner Woolsey, supported by Commissioner García Mazari, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of November 19, 2024.

No comments.

ACTION: AYES 5 – 0

Motion passed.

3. BOARD COMMENTS

Woolsey comments that she was very excited that she and Anderson were able to visit Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities (GAAH) and had a full tour of both buildings. She included that they talked with CEO Steff Rosalez about ways GRPL can continue to be a good partner with them.

Boston thanks García Mazari for being part of the Board and comments that she will be missed.

García Mazari comments on the positive feedback she has heard regarding the video game collection at GRPL.

Anderson thanks McNaughton, Director of Collections Ann Neff-Rohs, and Director of Public Services Megan Biggins for bringing awareness of the Freedom to Read bills to the Board.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Legislative

Anderson comments that they will schedule meetings with various representatives to be held in GRPL branches in the new year.

b. Policy

Woolsey comments that they met to go over the proposed updates to the Board Policy Manual and had a few additional changes.

c. Board Retreat

García Mazari suggests holding the Board retreat at GAAH. Boston thanks her and says she will reach out to Rosalez.

5. STAFF & FOUNDATION REPORTS

A. Library Director's Report

McNaughton introduces Neff-Rohs. Neff-Rohs comments that the Michigan Freedom to Read House Bill was voted through last week and says the next leg for this bill is going through the Michigan Senate for approval at the end of this week.

Neff-Rohs speaks to the Digital Usage and Expenditure supplemental report. Boston thanks Neff-Rohs for putting this together and asks about the outlook for Amazon allowing access to libraries. Neff-Rohs answers that some of Amazon's availability is now on Palace Marketplace.

McNaughton comments that he's looking forward to ReThinking Libraries being at the Board Retreat and is also looking forward to working with them on a future Strategic Plan project in 2025.

McNaughton thanks García Mazari for serving on the Board the last 3 years. He comments that she has been a strong advocate for the library throughout her term. He adds that cupcakes from M&M Bakery have been provided for the Board and public to enjoy.

Anderson congratulates GRPL on the video game collection launch.

i. GRCM Collaboration

No comments.

B. Financial Report

Adcock comments that we will be putting forward 3 amendments next month: one for the Community Support and Outreach position, one for the new water bottle stations, and one for the Strategic Planning project.

García Mazari asks about the bump in the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) amount. Anderson suggests that it may be because MeLCat was down for a bit. McNaughton says he will look into it.

C. Foundation Update

Poortenga comments that the Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation (GRPLF) appeal letters have gone out and he has heard positive comments about their new logo. He adds that a couple trustees have retired from their Board, including Chuck Burpee. New trustees have joined the Board.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Appointment of Board Member

Anderson comments that while she misses having Kristin Kopec on the Board, she is excited to have a full Board again.

The Board interviews candidates Bryan Holt and Ericka Lozano-Buhl.

The Board discusses the candidates.

MOTION: By Commissioner García Mazari, supported by Commissioner Woolsey, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids appoint Bryan Holt to the open seat on the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids.

No comments.

ACTION: AYES 5 - 0 NAYS - 1 ABSTAIN

McNaughton comments that he has great faith in the Board and thinks Holt will be a great Library Commissioner.

Holt accepts the appointment.

Anderson thanks Lozano-Buhl for applying and asks her to consider running in the next election.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of the 2025 Regular Board Meeting Schedule

Anderson comments that there are 4 exceptions to the meetings being scheduled on the last Tuesday of the month due to conferences and holidays. She adds that the Special Meeting on April 29 is for the annual Director Evaluation.

MOTION: By Commissioner Woolsey, supported by Commissioner García Mazari, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids agree to approve the Regular Board Meeting Schedule for 2025.

No comments.

ACTION: AYES 6 – 0

Motion passed.

B. Approval of Library Closing Calendar 2025 - 2027

MOTION: By Commissioner Woolsey, supported by Commissioner Boston, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids agree to approve the Library Closing Calendar 2025 - 2027.

McNaughton explains that a second Staff Day has been incorporated.

Woolsey confirms that the Board is voting on 3 years worth of closings.

Anderson asks if the closing dates will be looked at again after the staffing audit is complete.

McNaughton answers yes and that if any changes need to be made, it will be discussed with the Board.

ACTION: AYES 6 – 0

Motion passed.

C. BoLC Policy Manual Updates

Woolsey comments that Laplow worked hard on updating the Manual. She adds that there are a large amount of changes in how we refer to the Board and the library, position titles have been updated, and typos have been corrected. She adds that the Policy Committee also suggested changing some phrasing in Policy 50-3, but not the content.

MOTION: By Commissioner García Mazari, supported by Commissioner Peterson, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids agree to approve the Board Policy Manual Updates.

Peterson thanks Laplow for changing the pronouns to gender-neutral terms. Anderson thanks Laplow for the capitalization consistency.

ACTION: AYES 6-0

Motion passed.

D. Employee Health Care Resolution

MOTION: By Commissioner Woolsey, supported by Commissioner García Mazari, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids agree to approve the Employee Health Care Resolution for 2025.

No comments.

ACTION: AYES 6 – 0

Motion passed.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Media Index

No comments.

B. Staffing Report

García Mazari comments on Lisa Boss retiring from the library and says she remembers working with her at GRPL fondly.

9. GRAND RAPIDS EMPLOYEES INDEPENDENT UNION

Assarian comments that he spoke to Lisa Boss since her retirement and she thanks GRPL for all of the good experiences throughout her years at the library.

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING: JANUARY 31, 2025

- Election of Board Officers
- Review of Committee Assignments
- Foundation Board Appointment by Board President
- Attendance Record from Previous Year
- Voluntary Commitment to Serve

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm.