

**Rochester Hills Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting**

February 13, 2024

- I. The Board of Trustees of the Rochester Hills Public Library held a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. The President called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm in the boardroom of the library. The presiding officer was Melinda Deel.

A quorum of the board was present including Bob Bonam, Melinda Deel, Madge Lawson, Julianne Reyes, and Harper West.

Anne Kucher was absent with prior notice given. President Deel appointed Ms. Reyes to serve as acting secretary in Ms. Kucher's absence.

Guests included Library Director Juliane Morian and Oakland Township Library Board President, Michael Tyler.

One member of the public was present.

- II. Public Comments - Gretchen Denton, a resident of Rochester Hills, stated that she was attending the meeting for research purposes because she was a registered parliamentarian and has been asked to consult with a neighboring library cooperative on how to run an effective board meeting. Ms. Denton also shared news about a free workshop from the Louise Saks Parliamentary Unit on April 13, 2024 and she distributed a one-page reference for Robert's Rules of Order.
- III. Minutes
 - A. On a motion by Mr. Bonam, Ms. West seconded the motion while including a clerical amendment to correct the spelling of one word. The board unanimously approved the regular minutes from January 8, 2024 as corrected.
 - B. On a motion by Mr. Bonam, which Ms. West seconded, the board unanimously approved the regular minutes from January 8, 2024 with no changes.
- IV. Treasurer's Report was reviewed and filed.
- V. Monthly Bills
 - A. On a motion by Mr. Bonam, which Ms. Lawson seconded, the board unanimously approved the monthly bills for January 2024, which totaled \$353,321.70.
- VI. Communications
 - A. The board reviewed and filed the communications.

VII. Director's Report and Statistical Report

- A. The board reviewed and filed the director's report and statistical report, with some discussion.
 - 1. Ms. Morian guided the Board through architectural renderings of a proposed shift in furniture and shelving arrangement for the second floor. Board members engaged in discussion and provided questions or opinions on items such as the placement of soft seating, direction of lighting, and making thoughtful furniture selections to minimize environmental impact. Ms. Morian recorded the feedback in order to inform the final layout with Library Design Associates.

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. President Deel appointed the following board members and liaisons to standing committees in 2024:
 - 1. Finance: Madge Lawson, Bob Bonam, Melinda Deel, and Michael Tyler
 - 2. Policy: Ann Kucher, Julianne Reyes, Harper West, and Alice Moo
- B. Finance Committee – Mr. Bonam reported that AHP contacted him for a routine interview on financial matters in 2023 as part of the audit process.
- C. Policy Committee
 - 1. On a motion by Ms. Reyes, seconded by Ms. West, the board discussed the second reading of Gov-6 Library Board Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy with the following edit:
 - a. Change Regulations #2 from the original wording: "Board members should not engage in discrimination of any kind, including discrimination that violates state or federal law" to "Board members should not engage in discrimination that violates state or federal law."
 - b. President Deel called for a vote, and the policy, as edited, passed unanimously.

IX. Other Business

- A. On a motion by Ms. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Bonam, the board unanimously approved the Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library serving alcohol at the library as part of their Wine, Wit, and Wisdom fundraiser on April 27, 2024.
- B. The board engaged in a discussion regarding future funding needs for the library. Ms. Morian stated that a complicating factor surrounding a discussion of increased revenue is the partnership with each contract community. The contracts are worded differently and operate with different renewal dates. Neither contract provides direction for if/when the public body (RHPL) increases revenue from the taxing base (Rochester Hills), nor does it address tiered service levels if a contract community contributes less than the tax base. She recommended visiting each of the communities for an information-only presentation of details about necessary capital improvements and corresponding cost-analysis. The

board did not object to Ms. Morian providing that information and reporting back on the conversation at a future meeting.

1. President Deel stated that an informational brochure that identifies capital needs and current pain points in the library would be effective in communicating needs to stakeholders and the public.
2. Mr. Tyler stated that the public may be more receptive to “sinking fund” style of millage request with separate accounting budget for the capital expenditures.

X. Board Comments

- A. Ms. Reyes expressed gratitude for the book plating that is completed each January for volunteer service in the previous year.
- B. Ms. West stated that any policy changes would be routed through the Policy Committee for board consideration.
- C. Ms. Deel thanked the staff at RHPL for hosting a successful community program in Winter Wonder Library and extended big kudos to all staff. Additionally, she shared praise for Deborah Larsen’s lecture program on the history of the Rochester Hills Public Library, which was a summary of her book “Necessity of Life: A History of the Rochester Hills Public Library.” Ms. Deel hoped that many members of the public would choose to watch the recording of the program on the RHPL YouTube page.

XI. Questions from the Liaisons

- A. Mr. Tyler stated that the Oakland Township Library Board meeting originally scheduled for January 18, 2024 was rescheduled for February 15, 2024. He reminded the RHPL board that the Oakland Township Board is elected differently from the RHPL board and each of the six members of the board are up for election in November of 2024.

XII. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Julianne Reyes, Acting Secretary