

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

September 11, 2023

- I. The Board of Trustees of the Rochester Hills Public Library held a regular meeting on Monday, September 11, 2023. The President called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm in the boardroom of the library. The presiding officer was Madge Lawson.

A quorum of the board was present including Melinda Deel, Anne Kucher, Julianne Reyes, and Chuck Stouffer. Bob Bonam was absent with prior notice given.

Guests included Library Director Julianne Morian and Oakland Township Library President, Michael Tyler. Alice Moo, City of Rochester liaison was absent with prior notice given.

Four members of the public were present.

- II. Public Comments

- A. Harper West introduced herself to the board as a candidate running for library trustee. She commented that she had been on the campaign trail and spoke to many residents who shared positive sentiments about the library. She added some details about herself and stated that she was a clinical psychologist with a private practice in Clarkston, MI. She serves presently on the Michigan Board of Psychologists, is a published author, and has a love of reading, writing, and the library.
- B. Pamela Olesen said that she had a question about where she could find more details about an event on September 28th that was billed as an informational meeting on groups that ban books in libraries.
- C. Terry Hetrick introduced herself and stated that she was running for library trustee.

- III. Minutes

- A. Mr. Stouffer made a motion to approve the agenda and strike the phrase “and excused” from 1.B that stated Bob Bonam and Alice Moo were “absent and excused.” That motion failed to obtain a second motion of support.
- B. On a motion by Ms. Kucher, which Ms. Deel seconded, the board unanimously approved the regular meeting minutes from August 21, 2023 amending the statement about “absent and excused” to read “absent with prior notice given.”

- IV. Treasurer’s Report was reviewed and filed.

- V. Monthly Bills

- A. On a motion by Ms. Reyes, which Ms. Deel seconded, the board unanimously approved the monthly bills for August 2023, which totaled \$376,849.86 with minor discussion.
 1. Mr. Stouffer questioned why Voice and Data Services seemed to be an underspent line item on the Budget vs. Actual report. Ms. Morian stated she would look into it and provide details.

2. Ms. Stouffer also requested that the line that reads, "Bookmobile" be amended to read, "Capital Expense – bookmobile."

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 and statistical report with minor discussion on benefits for staff.
- B. Ms. Morian indicated that the statistical report for OTBS was inaccurate because staff was waiting on the Braille and Talking Book Library in Lansing to report their circulation for OTBS patrons. Once that figure is updated, Ms. Morian will share an updated statistical report with the board and archive the accurate statistics.

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Centennial Celebration Committee – Ms. Morian stated that the committee did not meet in person this past month but that the library staff was working hard behind the scenes to implement planned events that the committee had brainstormed.
- B. Policy Committee
 1. First reading of "MGT-18 – Fund Balance Policy" was completed, with some discussion on the importance of having the Finance Committee evaluate the wording before the board adopts the policy after a second reading.
 2. First reading of "Pay 4 – Holiday Pay Policy" was completed.
- C. Director's Evaluation Committee – no major update, though work continues.

IX. Other Business - none

X. Board Comments

- A. Ms. Deel stated that she attended the Great British Baking Show presentation on Zoom that RHPL offered. She said that the presenter was lovely and she was so proud of how RHPL led a collaboration with other libraries in the area to make this program possible.
- B. Ms. Deel shared that she was recently in the library and was so impressed with staff thoroughness and attentiveness in tracking down a book she needed for her child. She characterized the effort as going above and beyond.
- C. Ms. Lawson said she was interested in attending a symposium on the right to read that was being held in conjunction with the University of Michigan.
- D. Ms. Kucher commented that she was proud of all the work that the Centennial Celebration Committee was doing in advance of 2024 and complimented President Madge Lawson on writing the foreword in the RHPL history book that is to be published.

XI. Questions from the Liaisons

- A. Mr. Tyler stated that the Oakland Township Library Board approved an annual budget that does not include a separate allocation for a capital projects, as he had originally proposed. He stated that the Oakland Township board could be approached in the

future for contribution to a project or library service that had explicit benefits to Oakland Township residents.

- B. Mr. Tyler also shared that the Oakland Township Library board voted to appoint Shirley Frazier to their board to fill a vacant seat. Ms. Frazier will serve out the term that ends in November of 2024.

XII. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Anne Kucher, Secretary