

**Rochester Hills Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
April 8, 2025**

- I. The Board of Trustees of the Rochester Hills Public Library held a regular meeting on Monday, April 8, 2025. The Vice-President called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm in the boardroom of the library. The presiding officer was Melinda Deel, who then passed the authority to Board President Bob Bonam when he arrived.

A quorum of the board included Melinda Deel, Madge Lawson, Julianne Reyes, and Harper West. Bob Bonam arrived at 7:05pm.

Anne Kucher was absent with prior notice given.

Guests included Library Director Julianne Morian, Oakland Township Library Board Liaison, Jim Kiefer, and City of Rochester Liaison Lauren Coleman. Greg Soule, Partner at the audit firm Andrews Hooper Pavlik, PLC was also present.

One member of the public was present.

- II. Public Comments - none
- III. Approval of the Agenda
 - A. On a motion by Ms. West, which Ms. Lawson seconded, the agenda was unanimously approved as presented with no discussion.
- IV. Presentation of the 2024 RHPL Audit
 - A. Mr. Soule presented a clean audit opinion for RHPL's fiscal year 2024. Mr. Soule left the meeting at 7:20 pm.
- V. Minutes
 - A. On a motion by Ms. Deel, which Ms. West seconded, the board unanimously approved the meeting minutes from March 10, 2025 with no changes or additional discussion.
- VI. The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and filed.
- VII. Monthly Bills
 - A. On a motion by Ms. West, which Ms. Lawson seconded, the board unanimously approved the monthly bills for March 2025, which totaled \$562,950.17 with no discussion.
- VIII. Communications
 - A. The board reviewed and filed the communications.

IX. Reports

- A. The board reviewed and filed the director's report and the statistical report.
 - 1. There was discussion regarding the potential loss of federal funding from an executive order that rendered the Institute for Museum and Library services dormant and its acute impact on the Michigan eLibrary (MeLCat interlibrary loan and MeL databases) as soon as October 1, 2025.
 - 2. Mrs. Morian noted that she will be attending the Michigan Library Association's Advocacy Day on April 30th and will report back on the likelihood that State of Michigan legislators are receptive to the idea of shoring up funding for services like MeL if the federal government no longer provides support.
 - 3. Ms. Morian shared that Rochester Hills Public Library has been selected as a spotlight library for Library Journal's Design Institute in May. This means that the library will be assigned a national-level architect firm (at no cost to the library) to prepare a potential solution to an architectural challenge. It is intended to be an exercise in exploring new trends in library designs; while it will not produce construction-ready plans it provides new ideas to consider and exposure to a new architecture firm.

X. Committee Reports

- A. The Finance Committee met on March 31, 2025 along with Greg Soule from AHP to review the RHPL 2024 fiscal year audit in-depth.
- B. The Policy Committee did not meet in person, but reviewed the attorney's recommendation for BENA-4 Sick Leave Policy in compliance with the Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) over email. Additionally, changes to the GEN-2 Definitions were reviewed by the Policy Committee in order to conform with provisions in the ESTA.
 - 1. On a motion by Ms. Lawson, which Ms. West seconded, the board unanimously approved BENA-4 Sick Leave Policy to replace the old policy (BENR-5 Sick Leave Policy) with no second reading and no additional discussion.
 - 2. On a motion by Ms. West, which Ms. Deel seconded, the board unanimously approved GEN-2 Definitions with no second reading and no additional discussion.

XI. Other Business - none

XII. Board Comments

- A. Ms. Reyes stated she wanted to briefly respond to an email that Ms. West sent to fellow RHPL board members in March that listed facts that provided evidence to support her statements at the February meeting. Ms. Reyes said that she regrets if she came across as unprofessional or hurt anyone with her comments at a previous meeting. Ms. Reyes also acknowledged that when RHPL board members engage in discourse on broad political issues that there are words and phrases that can elicit a reaction because they can be inflammatory. Ms. Reyes said she appreciates more of a neutral discussion on political issues that directly affect the library.
- B. Ms. West stated that she will continue to speak out on factual information as it pertains to the library's ability to serve the community.

- C. Mr. Bonam respectfully asked for board members to acknowledge when it is acceptable to agree to disagree, but continue to work together as a board for the good of the library. Mr. Bonam also apologized for coming to the meeting late, but wanted to make sure he was present in case there was an issue with quorum.

XIII. Questions from the Liaisons

- A. Mr. Kiefer stated that he plans to convene a special meeting as needed over the next month and the next regular meeting of the OTLB would take place on May 15th (and Ms. Morian has been invited to attend the May meeting.)
- B. Ms. Coleman stated that in honor of National Library Week a resident of Rochester Hills shared her original artwork regarding libraries and gave permission to RHPL to share it widely.

XIV. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Julianne Reyes, Secretary