

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

October 11, 2021

- I. The Board of Trustees of the Rochester Hills Public Library held a regular meeting on Monday, October 11, 2021 in the multipurpose room of the library. The President called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The presiding officer was Robert Bonam.

A quorum of the board was present including Robert Bonam, Gregg Christenson, Anne Kucher, Madge Lawson, and Suba Subbarao. Chuck Stouffer had an excused absence.

Guests included Library Director Juliane Morian and Oakland Township Liaison Michael Tyler.

17 members of the public attended, including library board candidates Melinda Deel and Julianne Reyes.

- II. Public Comments

- A. Lorraine McGoldrick commented that she would like to receive information on how material is purchased, shelved (including specific collections assigned), and removed from use. She would like to have more information about the statistics that are kept regarding circulation use and number of requests/holds for various titles. She would also like to know how the decision is made to assign material to specific (open collection) or control access by assigning it to a different shelving area.
- B. Jim Tokarski commented that he would like to invite the library board director to an upcoming Rochester Area Republican Club meeting since Ms. Morian is a new community leader.
- C. Cliff Eshelman commented that he is interested to learn how material is selected and added to the library collection. He wanted to know how library staff ensures that only wholesome titles are added to the collection.
- D. Joanna VanRaaphorst commented that she was happy to see so many people here at a library board meeting. She expressed that a desire to have only wholesome material on the shelf is subjective and that she values having choice for library patrons to pick what they want to read and what they do not want to read.
- E. Jim Sesi commented that he would like to see the library board livestream meetings.
- F. Julianne Reyes commented it was good that so many people came to the board meeting and that she supports livestreaming the meeting. She is interested to learn more about the selection process for adding materials to the collection.
- G. Melinda Deel commented that it was so nice to see so many people attend the library board meeting. She also said she wanted to thank the library for excellent programming options for a variety of ages. She commented that her kids were attending a Python coding course currently at the library and she was grateful for that opportunity.
- H. Jill Dunphy expressed thanks to the library for being a resource for various resources and services such as events, online learning, books, and magazines. She commented

that a criterion of only selecting wholesome materials is too subjective, and that the library should have a wide variety of materials and the decision to check out a title should be made in each person's home. She expressed a desire for the library to reflect the interests of the community but also to expand knowledge for the community about things they may not know such as information about other cultures.

- I. Diane Kurleto commented that she missed the library during COVID and especially when she had a technical issue and could not receive direct help with her laptop. She was disappointed that the library's response implied she had to write a letter to ask for more help.
 - J. Bruce Fealk commented that was disturbed to read in the board packet that some members of the community were concerned about certain books being in the library, and that he likened removing books from the library to book burning.
 - K. Marilyn Trent commented that she trusts the library professionals to curate a good collection on diverse subjects. She said that while she does not agree with every title that the library owns, she is grateful that the library makes a wide variety of material available to many individuals in the community and she appreciates what the library does.
 - L. Public commented concluded with Mr. Bonam stating that anyone who spoke and provided their contact information would receive a follow-up response from Ms. Morian. Ms. Morian thanked all the individuals who spoke and said that she looked forward to continuing conversations via email or phone. Mr. Christenson said that he was grateful for all the comments and appreciated the public's interest in attending the library board meeting.
- III. Minutes –On a motion by Ms. Lawson, which Ms. Subbarao seconded, the board unanimously approved the regular meeting minutes of September 13, 2021 as presented without discussion.
- IV. The Treasurer's Report –The board reviewed and filed the treasurer's report with minor discussion about healthy fund balance. Citing a trend across the nation and in high profile library systems like the New York Public Library system, Mr. Christenson suggested that the library board revisit the idea of eliminating late fee fines. Mr. Tyler suggested that while the budget is set for FY 2022, this could be a consideration for FY 2023. At Mr. Bonam's direction, Ms. Morian will prepare a summary of the pros and cons of eliminating late fees.
- V. On a motion by Ms. Kucher, which Ms. Lawson seconded, the board unanimously approved the monthly bills for September 2021 totaling \$355,580.38 without discussion.
- VI. Communications
- A. The board reviewed and filed the communications with minor discussion.
 1. Mr. Tyler would like to see the library explore if they can set up a different delivery mechanism for newspapers to arrive earlier than it is currently.
- VII. Director's Report and Statistical Report

- A. The board reviewed and filed the director's report and statistical report with some discussion.
 - 1. Mr. Christenson asked, and Ms. Morian confirmed, that the community bookmobile was currently off the road due to repairs not because of staffing vacancies. Discussion ensued on the bookmobile and outreach service.
 - a. Ms. Morian also said that the library should receive feedback regarding the status of a mini-bookmobile grant application to the Library of Michigan by the end of October and that would have direct impact on the next phase of service for outreach.
 - b. Ms. Morian confirmed that patrons are notified about the bookmobile status with an email notification. She added that the next phase of outreach operation could include expansion to text notification, utilizing an app to show the location of the vehicle, or exploring the use of lockers for hold pickups.
 - 2. Mr. Tyler noted that while month-to-month comparison of statistics may show a slight fluctuation that cannot be explained, the year-to-year statistics show strong performance for utilized library services.
 - 3. Mr. Tyler stated that Oakland Township card adoption rate is at about 47% of total 2020 census rates, and is much lower than the other two communities are (Rochester Hills with a 59% adoption rate and City of Rochester with a rate of 61%). Mr. Tyler stated that Ms. Morian, and the Community Relations Manager will attend the November Oakland Township Library Board meeting to discuss an outreach campaign to get more Oakland Township residents to sign up for a library card.

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Policy Review Committee
 - 1. The Policy Review submitted various policies for the full board's second reading and discussion.
 - 2. Ms. Morian noted legal review of INF-4 Internet Access and Use Policy. While there was significant markup on this copy from the attorney, it was prudent to accept this version without additional changes since it reflects compliance with various laws.
 - 3. Ms. Lawson, seconded by Ms. Subbarao, moved to approve all the policies submitted for second reading as presented. There was no discussion and the board unanimously supported the motion.
- B. Director's Evaluation Committee – Mr. Bonam confirmed director's evaluation process is moving ahead according to schedule.

IX. Other Business

- A. Ms. Morian presented an overview of the two bids received for the parking lot rebuilding project and noted that the bids came in higher than expected, but may reflect a new reality of greater demand for construction throughout the metro Detroit area and labor shortages. Discussion ensued about the timeline for accepting the bids, the need and turnaround time for attorney review of the contract, and the possibility of new

infrastructure revenue flowing from the federal government. Concluding that there was no major safety issue with the state of the parking lot, the board did not take action during the meeting and referred further analysis to the Finance Committee.

- B. Board Comments
 - 1. Ms. Lawson commented that she was pleased to see so many members of the public in attendance at the meeting.
 - 2. Mr. Bonam expressed thanks to the public that attended the full meeting.
 - 3. Mr. Christenson confirmed that since his library board term ends in November 2021, he resigned from the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester's investment committee.
 - 4. There were no other comments from board members

- X. Questions from the Liaisons
 - A. Mr. Tyler commented that he would encourage more library card registrations in part because when someone becomes a cardholder they can sign up for month eNewsletters that are emailed to patrons.

- XI. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Anne Kucher, Secretary