

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

March 14, 2022

- I. The Board of Trustees of the Rochester Hills Public Library held a regular meeting on Monday, March 14, 2022. The President called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the multipurpose room of the library. The presiding officer was Madge Lawson.

A quorum of the board was present including Robert Bonam, Melinda Deel, Anne Kucher, Julianne Reyes, and Chuck Stouffer.

Guests included Library Director Juliane Morian, City of Rochester Liaison Alice Moo, and Oakland Township Library Board Vice-President, Henry Carels.

Twelve members of the public were present

- II. Public comments:

- A. Frank Cao, a resident, said that when he read the March 2022 board packet he felt that virtually all of the patron requests to move books from the library had to do with homosexuality and felt that it was singled-out. He expressed that it was important to have a range of sexuality and gender topics included in the library's collection.
- B. Rod Bierlson, a resident, said that he has been coming to the library since his daughter could walk and has been pleased with library operations. He said that he appreciated that the administration and Board of Trustees follows the RHPL guidelines already in place when it comes to collection development and adding new titles. When it comes to the option to ban books, he supports current policy as it is written, and does not believe in book banning.
- C. Bruce Fealk, a resident, said that he wanted to thank the Board of Trustees and staff for their hard work in navigating challenges to intellectual freedom, and for following established RHPL policies. He said he objects to an effort that he calls the "American Taliban" and the desire of a small group to censor materials. He supports hiring professional librarians with LIS degrees to make decisions about the collection not fellow members of the public.
- D. Julie O., a resident, said she supports a full range of books in the library and making collections as inclusive as possible. She values finding books that broaden her mindset. She requested that the Library Board of Trustees not ban books.
- E. Marilyn Trent, a resident, said that since the library serves 110,000 people, it could not make everyone happy. She appreciates that staff who have a degree in collection development make the decisions on what to acquire and she has found that those collection decisions have been very beneficial as a patron. She appreciates the current criteria for acquiring material in the library and does not want to see it changed.

- III. Minutes – On a motion by Mr. Bonam, which Mr. Stouffer seconded, the board unanimously approved the meeting minutes of February 7, 2022.

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- IV. Treasurer's Report was reviewed and filed.
- V. On a motion by Ms. Kucher, which Mr. Stouffer seconded, the board unanimously approved the monthly bills for February 2022, which totaled \$345,034.59
- VI. Communications
 - A. The board reviewed and filed the communications with no major discussion.
- VII. Director's Report and Statistical Report
 - A. The board review and filed the director's report and statistical report with minor discussion:
 - 1. Mr. Stouffer suggested that UV light might be a useful strategy for cleaning parts of the library such as youth area educational toys.
 - 2. The board discussed the top considerations for Rochester Rotary Club to address as part of a rental agreement for private use of the Rotary Gateway Park: parking other than the library parking lot, enforcing private use of the park and no alcohol consumption, and liability insurance. Ms. Morian will convey those top issues to the Rochester Rotary Club for further discussion.
- VIII. Committee Reports
 - A. Finance committee will convene in April for a preliminary review of audit documents, followed by a full audit presentation at the May Board of Trustees' meeting.
 - B. Policy committee may convene in the next month to consider the following new policies: Social Media Policy and Capital Asset Policy.
- IX. Other Business
 - A. There was no other business.
 - B. Board Comments
 - a. Ms. Reyes and Ms. Lawson both stated that they would not be present at the April 11th board meeting. Ms. Lawson confirmed that Ms. Kucher, as Vice-President, would be the presiding officer at the April meeting.
 - C. There were no additional comments from board members.
- X. Questions from the Liaisons
 - A. There were no comments from liaisons.
- XI. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Chuck Stouffer, Secretary