

The Grosse Pointe Public Library
Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
January 18, 2018

There was a planned meeting of the Grosse Pointe Public Library Board of Trustees at the Central Library, 10 Kercheval Ave., Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan on January 18, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Elizabeth Vogel, President. Present were Trustees Elizabeth Vogel, Sandy MacMechan, Kim Valice, Greg Ulrich, Robert Klacza, and George Lapastora. Paul Rentenbach was absent with notice. Kim Valice was excused at 7:45. Jessica Keyser, Library Director, was present.

Approval of Agenda

Sandy MacMechan moved to approve the agenda and George Lapastora supported. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-0.

Approval of the December 21, 2017 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Robert Klacza made a motion to approve the December 21, 2017 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as amended and Sandy MacMechan supported. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-0.

Director's Report

Library Director Jessica Keyser announced the appointing of the Branch Managers for the Grosse Pointe Library. Pat McClary will be Woods Library Branch Manager, Mary Lynn Martin will be Branch Manager at Central and Danis Houser will manage the Ewald Library. The Valente Family of Grosse Pointe is donating a fish tank in memory of their daughter, Claire. The fish tank will be housed at the Woods Library it is the only Library without a tank. Several areas of the building have been surveyed for this added feature for all to enjoy in memory of Claire Valente.

Action Items

Approval of Monthly Check Register. The Director reviewed the check register. Sandy MacMechan moved to approve the monthly check register and Kim Valice supported. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-0.

Information and Discussion

Finance Report: Library Director, Jessica Keyser, presented the financial statements to the Board for discussion. The December credit card statement is included.

Friends of the Library Report

Joann Dennis advised the Board Classic Books Lecture Series is starting the first week of February with *The Invisible Man*. The next Friends book sale is the second week of February at the Woods Library. The Friends have started collecting bags for the Books, Bags and Bagels sale in March.

Grosse Pointe Library Foundation Report

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Public Comments

John Clexton, 1016 Lakepointe, was a resident of Grosse Pointe before working at the Library. He also worked as a firefighter and EMT. John chose to work in Grosse Pointe because it's a great community. John decided to get his Master's in Library Science so he could continue to serve his community. As a resident I feel what's going on with the contract is ridiculous. The answer is to follow the Fact Finder's Report. There is strife in the community and the Library- this needs to be finished.

Eileen Wolfschlager, 310 Moran, will always remember John Clexton helping her when her granddaughter hit her head. Eileen would like all Libraries to have parking lot surveillance. Her car was damaged although she's not sure where it happened. The students and people parking in handicapped parking and in the fire lane need to be policed.

Ed Hill says he has spoken to the Board many times regarding the staff contract. One of the finest legal minds, George Roummel, conducted a Fact Finding Report. The Library should follow it. This contention looks bad to the community. Follow the Fact Finding and move forward.

Sue Steiger echoes the sentiments of John Clexton and Ed Hill. There is too much strife in the Library. The Board should accept the Fact Finding and get contract settled.

Laura Orme, Grosse Pointe Park, feels John Clexton was treated unfairly and placed in a 'Catch 22' situation when the Branch Manager positions were posted. Ms. Orme feels the self-governing Board is guilty of gross mismanagement which is why a contract hasn't been signed. Ms. Orme says she will start a citizen's group to investigate the Board if dispute isn't settled.

Laney Corrado, Assistant Coordinator of Circulation, hoped the new Board and new Director would have waited before trying to change the contract. When her husband died he knew Laney would be taken care of by the Library, but that's no longer true. Laney feels there's no rush to settle on behalf of the Board because they aren't facing any hardship. The staff is losing money every month which adds up to about \$1,300 because she feels the Library chose to convey the price increase in the health coverage to the staff. She feels this wouldn't have happened in the past or the money would have been returned in the form of a bonus. Laney says her loss of income is due to the Board and she calls on the Board to follow the Fact Finding. The Grosse Pointe Public Library has a status that attracts people and the Board should recognize the very staff that created this much loved community asset. The Board should ask themselves these questions: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all? Will it build good will? Will it benefit all concerned?

Deborah Karcher, 831 Fisher, would like to echo what was said by John Clexton. As a resident, tax payer and attorney, Deborah is confused about the lack of a contract. The Fact

Finding Report seems very reasonable although may not be loved by either side. "Tonight I saw a Librarian I haven't seen in at least six years, but she remembered my name. The staff is precious."

Jack Weston, Grosse Pointe City, is a resident and lawyer. Mr. Weston stated George Roummel is very well known and respected. Mr. Roummel tried to find a middle ground in the Fact Finding Report and Mr. Weston believes he hit the nail on the head with this report. It's been seven months since negotiations started and two months since the Report was released which adds up to a lot of legal fees. Mr. Weston urges the Board to use haste trying to reach a conclusion.

Eileen Proudluck, Grosse Pointe City, asks the Board to consider what Library employees have said tonight. The staff is being personally affected by the delay. Ms. Proudluck wants the Board to look at the Fact Finding Report and follow it. The situation is ridiculous and it's time to settle the contract now.

Comments by Trustees

None.

Enter Closed Session to Discuss Labor Negotiations

Elizabeth Vogel moved to enter closed session to discuss labor negotiations and Sandy MacMechan supported. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Adjourn Closed Session and Return to Public Meeting


Paul Rentenbach moved to exit closed session and Sandy MacMechan supported. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Announcements of Future Meetings of the Board

Elizabeth Vogel announced the next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2018 at the Central Library at 6:30 P.M.

Upon motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Sandy MacMechan