

The Grosse Pointe Public Library
Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
August 24, 2017

There was a planned meeting of the Grosse Pointe Public Library Board of Trustees at the Ewald Library, 15175 E. Jefferson Ave., Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan on August 24, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Robert Klacza, Vice President. Present were Trustees Robert Klacza, Sandy MacMechan, Paul Rentenbach, George Lapastora, Robert Klacza and Gregory Ulrich. Elizabeth Vogel and Kim Valice were excused. Jessica Keyser, Library Director, was present.

Approval of Agenda

Sandy MacMechan moved to approve the agenda as amended and George Lapastora supported. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

Approval of the July 27, 2017 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Sandy MacMechan made a motion to approve the July 27, 2017 Regular Board Meeting Minutes and George Lapastora supported. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

Library Director's Report

Library Director Jessica Keyser reported to the Board the contract extension with Strategiz was signed and on October 11th the Director will present the strategic plan to the Rotary. There was a nice article in the Grosse Pointe News regarding the strategic plan and MI Library card. The lighting project at Central is on track. The lights are brighter and more attractive. The Grosse Pointe Public Library will have a table at the North-South tailgate sponsored by an anonymous patron. Patrons are already using the Bike Fix It Station in place at Ewald Library. Mrs. Keyser mentioned several trees are dying at Central Library and will be removed. Trustees suggested a tree memorial program. The Director also mentioned yard games and Google Cardboard Virtual Reality Glasses have been added to the tool collection.

Action Items

Approval of Monthly Check Register. The Director reviewed the check register. Sandy MacMechan moved to approve the monthly check register and Paul Rentenbach supported. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

Approval of VOIP Phone Service. The Director presented bids from four companies to update the Library to VOIP service and to lease new phones. The Director asked the Board to approve Complete Interactive Technologies, Inc. as CIT offers a comprehensive training and service plan and is a local company. Paul Rentenbach moved to approve Complete Interactive Technologies, Inc. to provide VOIP service to the Library and George Lapastora supported. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

Information and Discussion

Finance Report: Library Director, Jessica Keyser, presented the financial statements to the Board for discussion. The statements reflect the combined fund balances.

Friends of the Library Report

Joanne Dennis shared Banned Books Week is 9/25-9/29. The Friends will set up displays in each of the Libraries. The next book sale will be at Ewald Library from 9/28-9/30. The Halloween costume sale will be held at Woods Library on October 7, 2017.

Grosse Pointe Library Foundation Report

'Blues in the Stacks' which concludes the *Night in the Stacks* series of fundraisers will be at Central Library on September 15, 2017.

Old Business

None.

New Business

- a. **Board Committee Assignments.** Elizabeth Vogel polled the Board on Committee preferences and assigned members to their preferred committees. Ms. Vogel informed the Board of the assignments via letter. Most Board members responded they would like to be on the Strategic Planning Implementation and Review Committee. Therefore, Ms. Vogel proposed making this a “Committee of the Whole”. The other committees are as follows: Foundation Representatives will be Sandy MacMechan, Paul Rentenbach and Robert Klacza; Finance Committee will be made up of Paul Rentenbach, Greg Ulrich and Elizabeth Vogel; Personnel Review Committee will be made up of Kim Valice, George Lapastora and Elizabeth Vogel; Ad-hoc Millage Renewal Campaign will be made up of Sandy MacMechan and Robert Klacza.
- b. **Memorandum of Collaboration between the Grosse Pointe Public Library, the Grosse Pointe Library Foundation and the Friends of the Grosse Pointe Public Library.** Paul Rentenbach reported members of the Library, the Foundation and the Friends met several times to develop this memo and asked Mr. Rentenbach to review it. Some minor changes were made upon review. Mr. Rentenbach says the memo is a relatively simple document stating the Foundation and Friends will share info and coordinate events with the Library as well as establishing a joint mailing for donors/members. Paul Rentenbach moved to approve the Memorandum of Collaboration and Robert Klacza supported. The motion was passed by a vote of 5-0.
- c. **Foundation Bylaws.** Paul Rentenbach stated the Library Board is the sole member of the Foundation. Mr. Rentenbach thinks some amendments need to be made to the Foundation bylaws. Once the committee has crafted the bylaws and signed off on them Mr. Rentenbach will forward to the Board with hopes to approve in September.

Public Comments

Joann Dennis inquired about the role of the Strategic Plan Committee and Mr. Klacza responded the committee will meet with Strategiz quarterly to receive reports on progress. If the Board feels that Strategiz is no longer needed to monitor progress the Board can terminate services with 30 days written notice.

Sue Steiger noted there was an article in the Grosse Pointe News today regarding the Strategic Plan and in the article it was mentioned 5 times the importance of Library staff. There was also a letter to the editor lauding the Library staff. Ms. Steiger expressed concern the contract between Library and staff hasn't been finalized and wonders if health care is impeding progress. Ms. Steiger is concerned about the staff and says health care concerns rise above salary concerns.

Kathleen Gallagher has worked for the Library since 2003 and is currently the Outreach Librarian. Ms. Gallagher has a son with special needs, oral-motor problems, who has been receiving 60 sessions of speech therapy per year with current insurer, totally covered. The proposed insurance would cut visits to 30 sessions at 90% coverage. The other 30 sessions would cost \$200 apiece. That's a lot of money for her family. Kathleen has done a lot of research including talking to insurance companies, talking to a Blue Cross administrator, an insurance attorney and speech therapist. Ms. Gallagher asks the Board to stay with current insurance plan.

Sandy Novacek works part time at the Woods Library. Ms. Novacek spoke for a colleague who couldn't attend. Due to a serious car accident this employee has had regular chiropractic care. With the current insurance plan she is able to have 36 sessions per year after meeting the deductible. With new insurance out of pocket costs would be considerable. This employee is widowed and the sole earner in the house. Her spouse was diagnosed with cancer and without the current insurance the costs would have been catastrophic, with it all costs were covered. This employee is eternally grateful for the current coverage.

Maria Almaguer, Woods Librarian, also addressed the Board on behalf of a colleague. This colleague has a daughter born with heart problems and her family is so thankful for The Library's insurance plan for the healthy members of her family as well as her 2 year old daughter who has faced many medical procedures. The high expenses have all been covered 100% once her family deductible has been met.

Tammy Ivers has worked for the Library for 14 years. Since becoming a widow she has provided health insurance for her family. Library employees have had the current insurance for a long time and are very happy with it. The employees met with a representative for the new insurance plan and did not like him. The employees have thoroughly reviewed the proposed plan and have found it lacking. There are a few staff

members who need expensive hearing aids that are covered by current plan. The employees do not feel the new plan is better and stand united in their desire to keep the current insurance plan.

Comments by Trustees

Paul Rentenbach asked when Library labor attorney, Steve Schwartz, would be available for discussion and Library Director Keyser replied Mr. Schwartz would return to the office August 28, 2017.

Sandy MacMechan agreed with Mary Lynn Martin's suggestion from a previous meeting the Board become more familiar with staff. Sandy would like the staff to give presentations to the Board about themselves and their role with the Library. He added staff input molded the strategic plan.

Robert Klacza thanked staff for attending as it helps the Board gather information.

George Lapastora wanted the staff to know that the Staff BBQ hasn't been forgotten but maybe will take place in the spring due to ongoing negotiations.

Announcements of Future Meetings of the Board

Robert Klacza announced the next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday September 28, 2017 at the Central Library at 6:30 P.M.

Upon motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy MacMechan