

**The Grosse Pointe Public Library
Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
November 16, 2017**

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 November 16, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Elizabeth Vogel, President. Present were Trustees Elizabeth Vogel, Sandy MacMechan, Paul Rentenbach, Robert Klacza, Kim Valice and George Lapastora. Gregory Ulrich arrived at 6:40 P.M. Jessica Keyser, Library Director, was present.

Approval of Agenda

Robert Klacza moved to approve the agenda as amended and Sandy MacMechan supported. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-0.

Approval of the October 26, 2017 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

George Lapastora made a motion to approve the October 26, 2017 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as amended and Sandy MacMechan supported. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-0.

Strategic Plan Quarterly Report-Alan Herbach

Alan Herbach of Strategiz presented the 1st quarter report to the Library Board. Library Programming is on track in all areas except *1,000 Books Before Kindergarten*. The team is creating a registration and tracking system which should be complete by January 1, 2018. Technology is also on track in all areas except one-mobile hot spot. IT Coordinator Patrick Lynch continues to work on acquiring 3 mobile hot spots for the Library. The Administration team continues to work on the Infrastructure goals, although the Memo of Understanding between the Library's Friends and Foundation groups is complete. User Experience continues to work to complete goals; one of which is increasing the number of Library cards held by the community and establishing one phone number for the three branches of the Library are still being worked on. The Library will soon be posting the Marketing Coordinator position. Filling this position should help fulfill the goals of Marketing. Tracking systems have been developed for Professional Development which will allow the Library to see how those goals are being met. Financial goals are on track. Tax revenue arrives in January and February which will benefit the financial position.

Cornerstone Report

Grosse Pointe Library Director Jessica Keyser presented the Cornerstone report to the Library Board. Cornerstone is an independent insurance group the Library engaged to offer an analysis comparing the Messa plan to the zero deductible Blue Cross Blue Shield plan. Cornerstone was recommended by Grosse Pointe Shores Village Manager, Mark Wollenweber. Cornerstone knew this analysis was for informational purposes only and there would be no resulting contract for health coverage. In summary, Cornerstone felt the \$0 deductible BCBSM plan provides comparable coverage and value to the MESSA plan; the BCBSM \$0 deductible

plan is the richest plan BCBSM offers to groups the size of the Library; the BCBSM \$0 deductible plan is less costly for the Library; BCBSM provides extended customer service hours.

Library Director's Report

The Library is very pleased to be represented at the Chamber Foundation's 42nd Annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade. All Library staff and Board members and their families are welcome to march behind the Library banner. As always, there will be fun, family-friendly activities happening during and after the parade at the Central and Woods Libraries.

This winter the Library will be partnering with Beaumont Hospital and Grosse Pointe South High School to bring StoryCorps to the GPPL. The mission of StoryCorps is to preserve and share humanity's stories to build connections between people and create a more just and compassionate world. The story-telling will take place in the Central Branch program room: Thursday 1/11/18 4-7 PM, Monday 2/5/18 4-7 PM, and Wednesday 3/28/18 4-7 PM. This project is a result of Outreach Librarian Kathleen Gallagher's involvement with the Connecting the Community Task Force.

It is very bittersweet to report that Foundation Director Jennifer Bingaman has announced her resignation, effective January 1, 2018. Jennifer has been with the Foundation for 6 years and in that time the Foundation has raised over \$500,000 to support the Library. The Library thanks Jennifer for her many contributions and wishes her all the best in her future endeavors. The Foundation Board unanimously approved the appointment of Beth Vernon as their new director at their November meeting. Beth and Jennifer have been working together to ensure a smooth transition for the Foundation.

Action Items

Approval of Monthly Check Register. The Director reviewed the check register. Paul Rentenbach moved to approve the monthly check register and George Lapastora supported. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.

Information and Discussion

Finance Report: Library Director, Jessica Keyser, presented the financial statements to the Board for discussion. The Library is one third of the way into the fiscal year. Tax money should start arriving in January. The October credit card statement is included.

Friends of the Library Report

Joanne Dennis advised the Board the collaboration letter between the Friends and Foundation for the annual mailing is complete. The Friends gave out 1,400 books at Trick or Read in the Village. The next used book sale is February 13-17 at the Woods branch. Classic Books Lecture Series will begin in February and Books, Bags and Bagels will return March 24, 2018. I would like to ask the Board and everyone at the meeting to go on the Friends website and 'like' our Facebook page and ask all of your friends to 'like' it also. The more 'likes' and views a group has the more your page moves to the top.

Grosse Pointe Library Foundation Report

Robert Klacza shared the most significant action at the last Foundation meeting was a

motion made to recognize the efforts of Ed Hill, Elizabeth Vogel and Gary Collet for their work on the Memo of Understanding. Elizabeth Vogel thanked Mr. Klacza for the motion and added there are many others to be recognized.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Public Comments

Diane Karabetsos, a patron, told the Board the employees are really loyal and deserve what they want. She added she is unsure about the Branch Manager positions because the schools are in trouble financially and the cities are always asking for additional taxes. Ms. Karabetsos would like the Library to be sure the positions are necessary.

Catherine Ricard is a Youth Librarian and Union Secretary. Catherine says negotiations have been a long and arduous process for all of us. Fact Finding report was released today and I was happy to see support for several of the employee demands. Ms. Ricard is hopeful this will lead to a successful conclusion of negotiations.

Sue Steiger agrees with Catherine and desperately encourages the Board to settle this. You are going into a closed session tonight so please settle.

Joanne Dennis says negotiations are tearing us apart and the community is witnessing this. The Friends worked hard for the millage and she's not sure she would work on the millage again. It's sad this has gone so far. These people are her friends and could have been the Board's friends, too.

Emily Dove-Medows told the Board she is at the Library every single day. The people who work the desk are wonderful. As a member of the public it hurts me to see people here struggling with basic necessities. As a healthcare provider I wonder if Cornerstone looked at medical problems specific to the employee demographic. She appreciates the Library more than anything else in the community.

Martha Casey has lived in seven communities and the Library is essential to the community. The person the public interacts with most often is not the Board nor the Foundation, but the employees. The Board should give raises to all the employees. Please consider keeping staff happy.

Comments by Trustees

Kim Valice asked if what happens with the schools affect the Library. Greg Ulrich responded the schools do not own the Library. Ms. Valice added the Library should learn from the schools' mistakes. Elizabeth Vogel clarified the Library is not adding staff for the three Branch Manager positions; it's a change of job description and title. If the positions are not filled internally, the staff will be reassigned to meet the staffing needs agreed on with the Strategic Plan.

Sandy MacMechan noted the Grosse Pointe News article covering John Clextion's work on the Digital Media Lab. Sandy is happy to see the positive vibes from the Grosse Pointe News!

Elizabeth Vogel thanked the Library Board members who serve as representatives on the Foundation Board for all of their hard work.

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 7-0.

Adjourn Closed Session and Return to Public Meeting

Paul Rentenbach moved to exit closed session and George Lapastora supported. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Announcements of Future Meetings of the Board

Elizabeth Vogel announced the next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday December 21, 2017 at the Central Library at 6:30 P.M.

Upon motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Sandy MacMechan