

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

**July 17, 2023**

- I. The Board of Trustees of the Rochester Hills Public Library held a regular meeting on Monday, July 17, 2023. The President called the meeting to order at 8:01 pm in the boardroom of the library. The presiding officer was Madge Lawson.

A quorum of the board was present including Bob 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 President, Michael Tyler. Three invited speakers were present: Leanne Scott, City Clerk for the City of Rochester Hills, Shelia Brown, Deputy Clerk for the City of Rochester Hills, and Roxanne Thatcher, Deputy Township Clerk for the Charter Township of Oakland.

Three members of the public were present.

- II. Update regarding RHPL serving as an early voting site
  - A. Ms. Scott, City Clerk for the City of Rochester Hills, provided an update on the possibility of RHPL serving as an early voting site.
    1. Ms. Scott thanked the board for approving use of the RHPL facility as an early voting site for the local election in November of 2023.
    2. She stated that Oakland County has asked municipalities and voting sites to sign a commitment to offer early voting through the general election in November 2024. Ms. Scott informed the board that the agreement would be among Oakland County, City of Rochester Hills, Oakland Township, and the Rochester Hills Public Library (the City of Rochester opted out).
    3. Mr. Stouffer asked about splitting locations between two sites, and Ms. Scott said that is not a workable solution since the integrity of the equipment could be compromised (if it is moved).
    4. Ms. Reyes asked what alternate locations were being considered, and Ms. Scott said RHPL and only the Older Person's Commission would meet the criteria for an early voting site, but that the library was the preferred location.
    5. Ms. Deel asked about any prediction for volume of foot traffic, and Ms. Scott answered that volume is unknown since early voting is a completely new method of running an election in Michigan. She also stated that since November 2023 is a local election only, turnout is much lower than a general election.
    6. Discussion ensued on the impact to the library (primarily on programming that could have occurred in the multi-purpose room during the time it is requested to be reserved). Ms. Thatcher offered use of space in Oakland Township to conduct off-site programming during this time. Ms. Morian commented that with enough advance planning, alternate plans could be made for library programs in 2024.
    7. President Lawson tabled the discussion to a later point in the meeting agenda and the clerks left the meeting at 8:25pm.

III. Public Comments – None

IV. Minutes

- A. On a motion by Mr. Stouffer, which Mr. Bonam seconded, the board unanimously approved the regular meeting minutes from June 12, 2023 with minor clarification on what was meant by “virtual student cards” on the statistical report.

V. Treasurer’s Report was reviewed and filed.

VI. Monthly Bills

- A. On a motion by Ms. Kucher, which Ms. Deel seconded, the board unanimously approved the monthly bills for June 2023, which totaled \$466,375.64.

VII. Communications

- A. The board reviewed the communications; discussion ensued regarding comments received either in praise of, or dismay with, the Pride commemorations at the library.
  - 1. Mr. Stouffer stated that he would like the staff to exercise caution in creating displays that are controversial in nature. He stated that he hadn’t seen the display but felt that displays should not be forced on patrons using the library. He asked Ms. Morian how a librarian determines something is age-appropriate.
  - 2. Ms. Morian stated that professional librarians with advanced degrees have years of training on how to evaluate literature for a given age group, and no display is compulsory to engage with. Age-appropriate determining factors can include: difficulty of language, the amount of pictures, the age of the protagonist, and the topic and complexity of theme. She stated that she is proud to work in a library where advocating for critical thinking is a stated strategic goal of the board, and has confidence in the professional librarian staff’s ability to provide appropriate access to information despite perceived controversy.
  - 3. Ms. Morian also stated that this is not a new practice at RHPL and that the library has provided a Pride commemoration for the past 7 years. In response to positive feedback from residents who have lived LGBTQ experience, there was no reason to depart from the practice.
  - 4. Ms. Reyes stated that she had no issue with the adult Pride program on the schedule, but commented that patrons took issue with the display in the children’s department because kids are under age 13.
  - 5. Ms. Deel commented that the term age-appropriate can vary based on the unique development of each child and noted that the youth department spans ages birth to age 13.

VIII. Director’s Report and Statistical Report

- A. The board reviewed and filed the director’s and statistical report with some discussion.
  - 1. Mr. Tyler requested more information on patron data privacy within the integrated library system (ILS) to ensure that the parent company cannot sell data for their own purposes. Ms. Morian will follow up and report back.
  - 2. There were two corrections noted on upcoming events – the board meeting was confirmed for August 21<sup>st</sup> at 8pm and the September 11<sup>th</sup> board meeting was

corrected with a 7pm start time.

IX. Committee Reports

- A. Centennial Celebration Committee – Ms. Lawson reported that the committee met on July 13<sup>th</sup> and finalized an 18-month timeline of various activities throughout 2024.
- B. Finance Committee – The committee met on June 29<sup>th</sup> for an in-depth review of the proposed 2024 RHPL Budget. Ms. Morian presented the draft budget to the full board and confirmed a public hearing on the proposed budget at their August meeting.
  - 1. Ms. Deel expressed support for the capital projects included in the draft budget.
  - 2. Mr. Tyler expressed a desire for the RHPL board to assign a portion of fund balance for dedicated library presence in Oakland Township and more generally to the four corners of RHPL’s service area. Such services might include: self-service lockers, patron optional mail delivery of all hold requests, and library programs. He stated that the Oakland Township Library Board could consider an additional monetary commitment (from its fund balance) for the Oakland Township portion of start-up/capital expenses of four corner initiatives. He also stated that he felt residents along the Adams Rd. corridor would be particularly less likely to engage with RHPL because their daily travels would not bring them to, or through, downtown Rochester, close to the library. Consequently, RHPL needs to be especially focused on increasing awareness of the library’s online services and enhancing service delivery where feasible.

X. Other Business

- A. Mr. Stouffer made a motion, which Ms. Deel seconded, and the board unanimously approved RHPL to enter into an agreement with Oakland County, City of Rochester Hills, and Charter Township of Oakland to serve as an early voting site starting with the local election in November of 2023 through the general election in November of 2024.

XI. Board Comments

- A. Ms. Reyes commented that the board meeting dates and documentation did not render correctly on a mobile phone. Ms. Morian said she would will look into it and resolve it.
- B. Ms. Deel commented that she and her family enjoyed the “Pedal the Past” program at RHPL and commended the library and RH Museum for planning such a great event.

XII. Questions from the Liaisons

- A. Mr. Tyler thanked the board for allowing him to express his opinions and stated his support for the library serving as a regional early voting site. He also reiterated his desire to see more library presence in the northern parts of Oakland Township.

XIII. The regular meeting adjourned at 10:04 pm.