

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

**May 14, 2024**

- I. The Board of Trustees of the Rochester Hills Public Library held a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 2024. The President called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm in the boardroom of the library. The presiding officer was Melinda Deel.

A quorum of the board was present including Bob Bonam, Melinda Deel, Anne Kucher, Madge Lawson, Julianne Reyes, and Harper West.

Guests included Library Director Juliane Morian and Oakland Township Library Board President, Michael Tyler. City of Rochester Liaison, Alice Moo, completed her liaison term and did not attend.

- II. Public Comments – none
- III. Minutes
  - A. On a motion by Mr. Bonam, which Ms. Kucher seconded, the board unanimously approved the regular meeting minutes from April 9, 2024 with one correction regarding the date of the meeting.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report was reviewed and filed.
- V. Monthly Bills
  - A. On a motion by Mr. Bonam, which Ms. Reyes seconded, the board unanimously approved the monthly bills for April 2024, which totaled \$363,175.04.
- VI. Communications
  - A. The board reviewed and filed the communications with no significant discussion.
- VII. Director’s Report and Statistical Report
  - A. The board reviewed and filed the director’s report and statistical report, with some discussion regarding the volunteer luncheon in 2025. The Board asked Ms. Morian to enhance the recognition of volunteers, and to engage the Friends’ board to discuss ways the library might recognize Friends volunteers who make a significant impact and contribute to the library’s success.
  - B. The board reviewed and filed the 2024 RHPL Community Survey Report and the 2024 Public Library Association Conference Summary.
- VIII. Committee Reports
  - A. Centennial Committee – The board identified Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm as the ideal day and date for a major library centennial celebration and engaged in a

conversation about how to structure it as an event. Ms. Morian will convene the Centennial Committee to discuss the board's preference that it be a ticketed event on Saturday with music, ample appetizers, speakers, dignitaries, and include with a ribbon cutting of the enhanced adult services floor. The Board also requested a non-ticketed community event on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> with light refreshments for the community at large. Ms. Morian was directed to present a budget regarding these events at a future meeting.

- B. Finance Committee – the Finance Committee did not meet, but established a date for their next meeting on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- C. Policy Committee – no updates.

IX. Other Business

A. Summer reading incentive prizes

1. On a motion by Ms. Kucher, seconded by Mr. Bonam, the board unanimously approved three coupons for summer reading prizes (in sets of 5, for a total of 15) that would allow a temporary suspension of policy and permit the holder to: jump to the top of the holds queue, waive up to \$5.00 in fines (on one account at one time), or receive a free 3D print from the makerspace (up to \$5.00).

B. Building Updates

1. Ms. Morian presented an update with visuals for changes planned for the storyroom expansion and Adult Services department.
2. On a motion from Ms. Reyes, which Ms. Lawson seconded, the board unanimously approved spending up to \$60,000 on storyroom expansion (noting that \$20,000 was funded by an ARPA grant and \$10,000 was a contribution from the Friends of RHPL) and authorized the director to accept the quote from Kazak Building Company, LTD to complete the work.
3. On a motion from Ms. Kucher, seconded by Mr. Bonam, the board unanimously approved spending up to \$400,000 on furnishings replacements on the Adult & Teen Services floor and authorized the director to accept the quote from Library Design Associates to complete the work.

C. Millage Update

1. Ms. Morian provided an update on behalf of the City of Rochester regarding their response to the millage rate question posed to Rochester Hills residents, since they are a contract community with the Rochester Hills Public Library. She appeared before Rochester City Council on May 13, 2024 and presented an overview of what led to the millage request and how annual contract fees could increase if the voters in Rochester Hills approve a new, additional millage on August 6<sup>th</sup>. The Rochester City Council expressed resounding support for library operations and continuing as a contract community. They did not resolve to put a millage question on August 6<sup>th</sup> ballot for a dedicated millage and instead stated that they were inclined to pay any increase in contract fees from their general fund (as has been their practice since 1967).

2. Mr. Tyler provided an update on behalf of the Oakland Township Library Board (OTLB). This past month, he relayed to the OTLB that the RHPL Board of Trustees authorized conversations with the contract communities regarding a different, but equitable formula for contract fees and that RHPL Trustees requested that OTLB resolve to place a millage question on the August 6<sup>th</sup> ballot. Only a small quorum of four board members stated they could attend a special meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup> in advance of the ballot certification deadline to approve language for a ballot question. After discussing the matter with a municipal finance attorney, Mr. Tyler learned that OTLB could not propose a millage question in his municipality that only went into effect based on if another municipality approved their ballot question (as was the preference). As a result, Mr. Tyler was concerned that there would not be enough support within the quorum of OTLB to approve a ballot question for an OTLB millage on the August 6<sup>th</sup> ballot, and thus canceled the special meeting. He stated that he has notified the OTLB that he will call a special meeting on Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup> to consider ballot language for the November 5<sup>th</sup> ballot, should the millage be approved by Rochester Hills voters on August 6<sup>th</sup>.
3. Mr. Tyler also provided news on a related matter that due to a technicality in filling out the candidate affidavit of identity for the Oakland Township Library Board of Trustees election, three incumbent trustees and two residents (running for a first-term) were disqualified by the Oakland County Clerk and would have to run as write-in candidates in order to be elected to the OTLB in November.

X. Board Comments

- A. Ms. West commended Ms. Morian and the staff at RHPL on a job well done with communicating complicated information about the August 6 millage while simultaneously keeping major renovations and the furnishings refresh on schedule.
- B. Ms. Deel reiterated that she too was pleased with the hard work of the library director and observed that April was an incredibly busy but rewarding month of events for the library. She commented that the volunteer luncheon was a lovely afternoon and events surrounding Authors in April were delightful. She also conveyed kudos to the Friends of RHPL for hosting another amazing event in Wine, Wit, and Wisdom this past month.
- C. Ms. Reyes stated that she was pleased that the library attended the Rochester Area Prayer Breakfast and appreciated attending as a board trustee.
- D. Ms. Kucher stated that she is eager to recognize the Friends of RHPL in broader way for their individual contribution to the library's operations.

XI. Questions and Comments from the Liaisons - none

XII. The regular meeting adjourned at 10:07 pm.