

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

**February 7, 2022**

- I. The Board of Trustees of the Rochester Hills Public Library held a regular meeting on Monday, February 7, 2022. The President called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in Conference Room A of the library. The presiding officer was Madge Lawson.

A quorum of the board was present including Robert 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 Board Vice-President, Henry Carels.

- II. There were no public comments.
- III. Minutes – On a motion by Mr. Bonam, which Mr. Stouffer seconded, the board unanimously approved the annual meeting minutes and regular meeting minutes of January 10, 2022 with one minor correction, changing “Anne Kucher was excused with a prior commitment” to “...absent with a prior commitment.”
- IV. Treasurer’s Report was reviewed and filed.
- V. On a motion by Ms. Kucher, which Ms. Deel seconded, the board unanimously approved the monthly bills for January 2022, which totaled \$382,043.77.
- VI. Communications
  - A. The board reviewed, discussed and filed the communications with minor discussion:
    1. Mr. Stouffer noted that the endowed funds held by the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester could be used for a new bookmobile vehicle.
    2. Some board members noted that News & Views quarterly newsletter was not successfully delivered to their home.
    3. Board members provided feedback on the draft of the 2022 Community Survey. Ms. Morian will incorporate the specific feedback into the final version of the survey.
- VII. Director’s Report and Statistical Report
  - A. Ms. Morian provided an update on COVID-19 library operations.
  - B. Ms. Morian reviewed the fact that all members of the community have a legal right to access materials at a public library (and parents/guardians may exercise their right per policy to restrict what a minor in their care can checkout) yet noted that material objections have increased at RHPL. Ms. Morian reported that professional staff will review inquiries into each title, then communicate information about how the title was selected, shelved, and its demand (measured by lifetime circulation) to each community

member that initiated the challenge. Each community member has the right to appeal the library director's decision to the board, but that it is not practical for the board of trustees to engage in collection development beyond hearing appeals.

- C. Ms. Reyes questioned if the board was interested in forming a citizen committee to review material challenges. Mr. Stouffer stated that the library board is, in principle, such a committee, elected by the citizens of Rochester Hills to hear appeals regarding access to library resources.
- D. Mr. Bonam stated that in his 40+ years of serving on the board, RHPL has never removed a book from the collection. He noted that there are a few occasions where the Board determined that challenged material should be shelved in a different collection, but the library has never officially censored or banned a title from a community member's access to it if they wish.

#### VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Ms. Lawson offered her list of appointees for RHPL standing committees. On a motion by Mr. Bonam, seconded by Mr. Stouffer, the board unanimously voted to approve the committee assignments.
- B. On a motion from Ms. Reyes, seconded by Mr. Stouffer, the board considered reverting to the previous iteration of Work 6a – COVID-19 Safety and Emergency Preparedness Policy. The iteration of policy that was approved in January complied with the U.S. Department of Labor's recommendation that large employers require proof of full vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test every 7 days for all employees; once the Department of Labor retracted that recommendation, the need for such requirements in RHPL policy was reconsidered. Ms. Reyes suspended her motion while the board deliberated the need to waive a second reading of the policy in consideration with the first motion.
  - 1. On a motion by Ms. Deel, seconded by Mr. Stouffer, the board unanimously agreed to forgo a second reading of a policy change in order to expedite adoption and revert to the previous version of Work-6a COVID-19 Safety and Emergency Preparedness Policy.
- C. Ms. Reyes (first motion), and Mr. Stouffer (second) both agreed to change the wording on Work 6a 2.B. to include the county as an agency amending the sentence to read, "Maintaining mandated social distances (according to federal, state, county, and local guidelines)."
- D. The board unanimously approved Work-6a COVID-19 Safety and Emergency Preparedness Policy in its previous form, with the minor correction of adding "county" to the list of agencies that may provide guidelines.

#### IX. Other Business

- A. Ms. Morian indicated that variety of public health agencies regularly reach out to RHPL with a request to use the facility and possibly utilize a staff liaison for planning community health events. Examples range from community blood drives to vaccination clinics.
- B. The board engaged in discussion regarding the mission of the public library and the goodwill generated by offering health clinics when there is an acute crisis or a disaster. The general sentiment of the board is that occasional health clinics are acceptable, but to

refer agencies to other organizations like the City of Rochester Fire Station or Ascension Providence Rochester for most requests for public health clinics.

C. Board Comments

- a. Mr. Stouffer commented that he would like to see a plaque that recognizes the significant expansion of the building in 2015.
- b. Ms. Reyes asked if there was a way for new board members to get to know the RHPL staff. Ms. Deel commented that she would like to see a staff appreciation lunch or something similar. Ms. Morian mentioned that staff has expressed a desire to get to know the new board members as well and there were plans under way for an outdoor social event in the spring since there are no indoor group gatherings for staff.

D. There were no additional comments from board members.

X. Questions from the Liaisons

A. There were no comments from liaisons

XI. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

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Chuck Stouffer, Secretary