

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

**May 10, 2022**

- I. The Board of Trustees of the Rochester Hills Public Library held a regular meeting on Monday, May 10, 2022. The Vice-President called the meeting to order at 8:01 pm in the boardroom of the library. The presiding officer was Anne Kucher.

A quorum of the board was present including Melinda Deel, Anne Kucher, Julianne Reyes, and Chuck Stouffer. Madge Lawson attended via conference call due to a medical reason. Bob Bonam was absent.

Guests included Library Director Juliane Morian, City of Rochester Liaison Alice Moo, Oakland Township Library Board President, Michael Tyler and Alan Panter, Principal at Yeo & Yeo CPAs and Business Consultants group.

Three members of the public were present.

- II. Mr. Panter from Yeo & Yeo audit team presented an unmodified opinion (the highest level of assurance) for the 2021 RHPL financial statements. The board accepted the report with minor discussion regarding fund balance. Mr. Panter left the meeting at 8:20 pm.
- III. Public comments:
  - A. Sylvia Halpert, a resident, commented about her concern with the book “Sexuality: A Graphic Guide” and Ms. Morian’s determination that it should be retained in the Adult Graphic Novel collection. Ms. Halpert submitted a Reconsideration of Materials Form to appeal the decision to retain material and asked that it be censored from the collection. Ms. Morian confirmed that the Board of Trustees would begin the process of evaluating the title per policy.
  - B. Kristi Fleming, a resident, commented about her concerns with two titles in the teen section of the library, “Flamer” and “Jack of Hearts and Other Parts”. Ms. Fleming cited specific passages that she considered inappropriate and she labeled it pornography. Ms. Fleming confirmed that she would like to see the material moved from the Teen section to another collection in the library. She understood that asking the material be censored from the entire library was too restrictive for a public library collection.
  - C. Ms. Fleming and Ms. Halpert left the meeting after their comments; there were no other public comments.
- IV. Minutes – On a motion by Mr. Stouffer, which Ms. Deel seconded, the board unanimously approved the meeting minutes of March 14, 2022.
- V. Treasurer’s Report was reviewed and filed.

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- VI. On a motion by Mr. Stouffer, which Ms. Deel seconded, the board unanimously approved the monthly bills for April 2022, which totaled \$316,374.81.
- VII. Communications
  - A. The board reviewed and filed the communications with minor discussion regarding the RHPL current fines policy.
- VIII. Director's Report and Statistical Report
  - A. The board review and filed the director's report, statistical report with no major discussion.
- IX. Committee Reports
  - A. Finance committee met on April 12, 2022 for review of audit documents.
  - B. Policy committee met on May 2, 2022 to discuss a variety of topics:
    - 1. Ms. Lawson noted that the board referred WORK-11 Employee Social Use of Social Media Policy back to the policy committee to determine if it should be a standalone policy or if elements should be extracted and added to existing personnel policies. Ms. Lawson stated that the policy committee would present a standalone policy based on the recommendation of the library's labor attorney. Mr. Stouffer said that he objects to a policy that limits an employee's freedom of speech on social media.
    - 2. Ms. Lawson reported that there are small inconsistencies noted in some policies that will be addressed at a future policy committee meeting such as:
      - a. refunds to patrons;
      - b. limiting the number of renewals for the bookmobile collection due to the fact it is smaller;
      - c. setting a minimum number of required hours and residency requirement for library volunteers;
      - d. updating the Positions and Standards policy.
    - 3. The policy committee will present a Capital Replacement Policy and Whistleblower Policy to the full board at a future meeting.
  - C. On a motion by Mr. Stouffer, which Ms. Deel seconded, the board discussed a second reading of MGT-16 Social Media Policy, and made a minor change on point #9 to indicate that an appeal should be in writing and addressed to the library director. The proposed revisions were accepted by the motion-maker. The board voted unanimously to approve of the policy.
- X. Other Business
  - A. The board discussed significant insights from the 2022 RHPL Community Survey. Ms. Morian encouraged deeper study of outreach service options by distributing a summary of options, and requested discussion at the next board meeting.
- XI. Board Comments
  - A. Ms. Lawson commented that Mildred "Millie" Knudsen, a former board member, recently celebrated her 100 birthday. Ms. Lawson suggested that RHPL acknowledge it in some way. Ms. Morian will follow up with a card on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

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- B. Ms. Reyes stated that she would appreciate more training on how collection development occurs at the library and the legal framework for board members to consider appeals as it relates to reconsideration of library materials.
  - C. Ms. Deel thanked Ms. Morian for coordinating a variety of events at the library ranging from the Volunteer Luncheon to the staff appreciation lunch in May. She also extended her appreciation to the Friends of the RHPL for hosting Wine, Wit, and Wisdom in April.
  - D. There were no additional comments from board members.
- XII. Questions from the Liaisons
- A. Ms. Moo commented on the success of the Authors in April signing party at the library. Ms. Moo also inquired if the library conducts programming as part of outreach in the community. Ms. Morian said that the library offers story times by the Early Literacy Bus in the summer, but does not host DIY or performer/speaker programs currently as part of outreach services.
  - B. Mr. Tyler stated that the data gathered in the 2022 RHPL Community Survey was culled mostly from residents and it would be beneficial to try to solicit feedback from non-users in a different survey.
- XIII. The regular meeting adjourned at 9:48 pm.

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Chuck Stouffer, Secretary