

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

March 12, 2024

- I. The Board of Trustees of the Rochester Hills Public Library held a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 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 City of Rochester Liaison Alice Moo. Library attorney Anne Seurnyck from Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC attended the meeting via Zoom. Oakland Township Library Board Vice-President, Mark Gerhard joined the meeting at 7:07pm.

One member of the public was present.

- II. Public Comments – Trevis Harrold introduce himself as a candidate running for State Representative of the 55th State House District. He explained about his background and military service, and outlined priorities he would focus on if elected. He stated that he was eager to learn more about how library boards operate and learn more about the RHPL.
- III. Presentation – Anne Seurnyck provided training on what board members need to know about compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Freedom of Information Requests, and the Library Privacy Act. Ms. Seurnyck left the meeting at 7:55pm.
- IV. Approval of Consent Agenda Items
 - A. On a motion from Ms. West, seconded by Ms. Lawson, the Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved:
 1. Minutes of regular meeting on February 13, 2024
 2. Treasurer’s Report for February 2024
 3. Communications
- V. Monthly Bills
 - A. On a motion by Ms. Kucher, which Mr. Bonam seconded, the board unanimously approved the monthly bills for February 2024, which totaled \$421,379.26.
- VI. Director’s Report and Statistical Report
 - A. The board reviewed and filed the director’s report and statistical report, with no discussion.
- VII. Committee Reports

- A. Finance Committee – the Finance Committee met on February 26, 2024 to evaluate an amendment to the current agreement for RHPL endowed funds held by the Greater Rochester Community Foundation. The amendment would re-characterize monies available for distribution based on the historical average earnings (over the previous three years) of growth on the principal and interest, not just the interest, as it had been characterized prior.
 - 1. On a motion from Mr. Bonam, seconded by Ms. Lawson, the board unanimously approved the amendment to the agreement for RHPL endowed funds and directed Ms. Morian to sign the Fund Agreement Amendment and return it to the Community Foundation.

 - B. Policy Committee – the Policy Committee met on March 4, 2024 to consider policy changes. They advanced two policies for the full board to review, and continue to work on a proposed new policy called, MGT-19 Environmental Impact Policy.
 - 1. The board completed a first reading of GOV-4 Library Board Bylaws Policy. While discussing the policy, the suggestion was made that the Policy Committee review language that restricts any signs during the meeting at any time. The committee will consider the succinct language around prohibition of signs and present that as part of a second reading.
 - 2. The board completed a first reading of GSV-4 Makerspace Policy with one clerical edit, but no major discussion on this policy.
- VIII. Other Business
- A. The board engaged in a discussion regarding future funding needs for the library and a possible millage request.
 - 1. Ms. Morian reported that she and Ms. Deel, as President of the Board, met with Mayor Barnett to brief him on the revenue needs of the library and cost-cutting measures already implemented. He expressed his support for an additional millage and advised on some next steps.
 - 2. Ms. Morian reported that she and Ms. Moo, as City of Rochester Liaison, met with City Manager Nik Banda to brief him on the revenue needs of the library. Mr. Banda expressed support and stated that the ideal way to accomplish this was to change the funding mechanism for how the City pays for library services. City of Rochester has a contract with the RHPL and pays for library services out of its general fund, so taxpayers have never seen a line item for library services on their tax bill. City of Rochester stated that if an additional millage is needed, it is logical to put it to a vote of the citizens as a separate, dedicated millage for library funding. They encourage Ms. Morian and Ms. Moo to submit an informational brochure with a proposed millage rate to the City of Rochester by March 23rd to be discussed at their Goals and Objectives meeting.
 - 3. Mr. Gerhard stated that the topic of additional funding was discussed at the Oakland Township Library Board’s February 15th meeting. He commented that in his opinion there is not unanimous support for an additional millage among the

board members at this point in time. Discussion ensued on the low millage rate that Oakland Township has for library service, a need for some measure of parity among the communities regarding rate of funding, and the fact Oakland Township has a millage expiring on 12/31/2025.

4. Ms. Morian stated she will follow up with the library attorney to determine if there is a legal requirement to provide uniform library service to contract communities who pay a lesser rate of funding. Ms. Morian said she would also like to offer a personal tour of RHPL for Oakland Township Library Board Trustees to foster greater understanding on the revenue needs (specifically the capital needs) of the library.

IX. Board Comments

- A. Ms. Reyes asked a clarifying question about RHPL committees conducting business, and Mr. Bonam offered perspective stating that committees are intentionally composed of only three board members to avoid a quorum of the board and the committees are entrusted to conduct work sessions and in-depth analysis on behalf of the board, but should always present policy decisions before the full board in a public meeting.
- B. Ms. Reyes commented that she was going to follow up on the email request from the RHPL Public Relations team to record a celebratory video message to the library and encouraged all board members to do the same.

X. Questions from the Liaisons – None

XI. The regular meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Anne Kucher, Secretary