

**GENESEE DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD MEETING  
at  
Genesee District Library Headquarters  
5:30 p.m.  
4195 W. Pasadena Ave  
Flint, MI 48504  
May 20, 2024  
Minutes**

- Call to Order: 5:30 p.m.
- Present: Barnes, Crites, Hostetler, Ryals-Massey, Steffey and Towarnicky.
- Also Present: C. Stritmatter (Corporation Counsel), D. Conklin, A. Goldyn and A. Gamble (Auditor with Lewis & Knopf).
- Absent: Conerly-Moon.
- Public Comments: None.
- Approval of Consent Agenda: L. Ryals-Massey stated she would like to revise the agenda so the 2023 Audit Report can be handled prior to Board Development. J. Steffey moved to approve the revised consent agenda. Motion supported by D. Hostetler. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2023 Audit Report: A. Goldyn introduced A. Gamble as one of the audit team members from Lewis & Knopf. A. Gamble presented the highlights of the 2023 Audit Report. He stated that A. Goldyn continues to do a fantastic job each year. R. Crites moved to approve the 2023 Audit Report as presented. Motion supported by D. Hostetler. Roll call: ayes – Barnes, Crites, Hostetler, Ryals-Massey, Steffey and Towarnicky; nays – none.
- Board Development: C. Stritmatter stated that P. Parker would have topics to cover at the July meeting.
- Corporation Counsel: Nothing to report.
- GDL Foundation: J. Towarnicky stated the last meeting was held on March 13. She stated that the year to date DVD cart sales amount is \$159.05. She stated they received \$490.30 from the Kroger rewards program for the period of November 2023 to January 2024. She also stated that they voted to contribute \$1,000 to the Summer Reading Challenge and \$1,000 for the Mt. Morris carpeting project.
- Written Reports: D. Hostetler commented that the 17% increase for the healthcare rates was exorbitant. D. Conklin stated that our agent, Saginaw Bay Underwriters, always shops around each year for the best rates. D. Conklin continued to state that for the last several years we have only had minimal increases; however, the healthcare rates have caught up with inflation. Further discussion centered on retiree healthcare.  
  
D. Hostetler commented about the legislative action to divert penal fines away from the library. D. Conklin stated that GDL used to receive nearly double what we received last year. He continued to state that local governmental entities started redirecting a portion of the funds back to themselves around 2007-2008.  
  
R. Crites inquired if there has been any more movement in the State Legislature about holding board meetings electronically. D. Conklin replied there has not.

Written Reports  
(continued):

T. Barnes inquired if any new possible locations are being evaluated now that the mall is up for sale or redevelopment. D. Conklin stated that there will not be a new location unless directed by the Board. D. Conklin stated the founding documents say that the library is not allowed to maintain any buildings other than the Headquarters building. He stated that there are some technicalities that were involved to open the mall location, but it is not considered a regular branch. D. Conklin stated he had not heard any news about the mall redevelopment and T. Barnes stated it was in a View Newspaper article. L. Ryals-Massey stated that she read the article that T. Barnes referenced and said the mall owner was interested in redeveloping the unused land around the mall. L. Ryals-Massey circulated a copy of the referenced article. L. Ryals-Massey stated it would be something for the Finance Committee to discuss further.

L. Ryals-Massey inquired if the employees had already been notified of the healthcare cost increase. D. Conklin stated that A. Goldyn was able to prepare a document for the employees to review so they are aware of the increased costs.

L. Ryals-Massey complimented the staff on all their great work and helping meet our Strategic Plan's goals.

L. Ryals-Massey stated it is great that we continue to be proactive and have a staff member attend an active shooter and de-escalation training.

L. Ryals-Massey asked that the Board receive a breakdown of the revenue and expenses for the annual Black History Month Brunch.

L. Ryals-Massey stated she is pleased to see the GDL-U classes have returned. She believes it is good when an organization develops its staff.

L. Ryals-Massey thanked D. Conklin for the various legislative updates.

L. Ryals-Massey stated she is in awe of all the technology programs that we offer the public. She stated she believes this will help during our millage renewal campaign in 2026.

L. Ryals-Massey inquired if we have a regularly scheduled visits to the Juvenile Justice Center. D. Conklin stated that our Youth Services Librarians had fairly regular visits; however, we do not have anything scheduled because we currently do not have a Youth Services Librarian.

R. Crites inquired if there are plans to have programs involving AI. D. Conklin stated there has been an informational program for seniors on what AI is about, but have not had any youth coding programs using AI.

Monthly Statistics:

D. Hostetler stated he is pleased that new patrons and physical visits continue to increase.

Finance Committee:

Nothing to report.

Personnel/Policy  
Committee:

L. Ryals-Massey stated that at the last meeting, everyone was given the Director's 2024 Goals and was asked to review it and make any recommended changes. She stated that since there were no recommended changes, the goals will remain as presented. D. Hostetler stated the Board Branch Tour sounded interesting. D. Conklin stated that he offered it back in November; however, no one was able to do it.

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Board Comments: D. Hostetler thought it was great that we handed out the special glasses for the solar eclipse. D. Conklin stated the planning started a year and half ahead of time and it did not cost anything to provide the glasses to the public.

Board Comments  
(continued):

J. Towarnicky stated that the Grand Blanc branch is partnering with the City of Grand Blanc to rent out ice skates in the winter for the ice skating rink in Physician's Park.

L. Ryals-Massey stated she attended a MLA webinar regarding millages. She stated it was very informative because they covered the "dos and don'ts" of what you can spend money on. She stated it is available online and encouraged other Board members to listen to it considering we will have a millage renewal in a couple of years.

L. Ryals-Massey stated the Strategic Plan expires at the end of this year. She stated we need to start thinking about how we are going to handle that.

D. Conklin stated that our MLA organizational dues have been renewed. He stated that he was given a form to add our Board members' names and email addresses to receive notices about future trainings. He stated he will not add anyone's name or email without their consent. Several Board members gave their consent to be added to the form.

Adjournment: 6:26 pm.