

Harper Woods Library Board Meeting
19601 Harper Woods, MI
Thursday, January 18, 2024

1. **Call to Order** by Eric Walton, Board President at 7:03 pm. Present: Vice President, Mary Beth Kane; Trustee, Malika Williams; Director, Kristen Valyi-Hax.
Absent: Treasurer, Melissa Henry
2. **Approval of Meeting Agenda.** Motion to approve by Mary Beth Kane and seconded by Malika Williams. Motion approved.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes from December 21, 2023 meeting by Mary Beth Kane and seconded by Malika Williams. Motion approved.
4. **Reports**
 - A. **President's report:** Eric wished everyone a Happy New Year. He has talked to Kristen during the month.
 - B. **Treasurer's report:** Kristen didn't receive an R&E report, which is common at the beginning of the year.
 - C. **Suburban Library Cooperative Representative Report** – There was no SLC meeting in December
 - D. **Staff report** – Given on paper.
5. **Ongoing Business**
 - A. **Lower Level Update** – Some of the work did slow down due to the holidays. However, more work has been done, including the laminate on the shelving, cleaning, and other repairs. Kristen is expecting another walk-through soon.
 - B. **Teen Area Electric Fixture** – Kristen still did not receive returned phone calls from the electricians she reached out to. She will continue to pursue this.
6. **New Business**
 - A. **2024 Library Budget** – Kristen passed out the portion of the city's budget that contained all of the library's information. Many of the budget line items are staying the same. Kristen did point out that the budget indicates that revenue will be higher in 2024. It is hoped that this trend will continue.
 - E. **Staff Pay Increases** – Kristen passed out a list of pay increases that were authorized by John Szymanski. Most of the staff received a \$1/hour increase, while circulation staff received a higher increase in order to raise their pay to a more average rate and beyond what library pages earn.
 - F. **Library 60th Anniversary Celebration** – Kristen distributed to the library board a list of suggested activities created by Suzanne Kent for the library's upcoming 60th Anniversary

Celebration. It was agreed that having a committee to work on this would be a good idea to begin organizing ideas.

7. **Call to Public** – Ronna Gillis spoke up about the pay increase. She noted that she is unhappy with the rate of the wage. She stated that the inequity of the amount is what bothered her for the long-term employees. She noted that this has an impact on quality of life and future Social Security payments. Longevity and health insurance benefits had also been changed in the past with no warning to the full-time staff. She asked where the money came from and what it the board's role in this.

Mary Ann Fortunate noted that she is working with Kathleen Carlson to re-start the Friends of the Library. They will be sending out a letter to the current Friends Members to alert them. They are hoping to continue the ongoing book sale as well as bring back the Artisans Market.

Suzanne Kent spoke about the library's upcoming 60th Anniversary. She would like for us to celebrate and to form a committee to help. The list she created included activities that have happened in the past. Representative Veronica Paiz has said that her office will pay for refreshments.

8. **Call to Board** – Mary Beth Kane pointed out that the Friends of the Grosse Pointe Public Library are active on social media and post something almost every day. She understands that the wage issue is something she understands since she used to work for the city. In 2007, the city had 147 full-time staff, and now they have 49. She wished that there was more money, and that staff do deserve to be treated better.

Eric Walton hopes that this is the start of something better for the library. He would like to be part of the committee for the 60th Anniversary Celebration.

9. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 7:51pm