

DEARBORN PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 2023
APPROVED

➤ ATTENDEES:

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| ➤ Chairperson Marcel Pultorak | ➤ Present |
| ➤ Vice Chairperson Dr. Ryan Lazar | ➤ Present |
| ➤ Secretary/Treasurer Jihan Jawad | ➤ Present |
| ➤ Commissioner Zeinab Alhashemi | ➤ Present |
| ➤ Commissioner Gerilyn Biggs | ➤ Present |
| ➤ Commissioner Barth Bucciarelli | ➤ Present |
| ➤ Commissioner Ali Dagher | ➤ Present |
| ➤ Commissioner Amira Haidar | ➤ Present |
| ➤ Commissioner Michelle Jawad | ➤ Present |
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| ➤ Interim Library Director Julie Schaefer | ➤ Present |
| ➤ Administrative Librarian Patty Podzikowski | ➤ Present |
| ➤ Department Technician Daniel Smith | ➤ Present |

I APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Pultorak called the meeting to order at 5:16PM. He announced a motion to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2022 meeting.

- No edits or amendments advised. Minutes approved.

II BUDGET

Interim Director Schaefer reported that requests were submitted for two capital projects. An underground cable that runs from HFCL to the City campus powerhouse needs to be replaced, as do the circuit breakers at HFCL. These will be paid for with the Library's fund balance, along with funds intended for other projects that did not cost as much as anticipated.

III FOUNDATION UPDATE

The Foundation continues to struggle with finding new board members. Two new members were added to the board, and one resigned.

The 2022 mailers did not go out as planned.

IV INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Library Director search and interview process

The posting closes on January 16. Commission Chairperson Pultorak reported that as of the meeting date, they received nine applications. The City's HR department will review applications with Chairperson Pultorak, Vice Chair Lazar, and the Mayor's Office, and begin a process of preliminary interviews. The commission as a whole will interview the most qualified candidates.

B. City Charter meeting

The commission speculates that the Library won't be discussed by the City Charter Commission for some time. Chairperson Pultorak reports that there has been no response to the letter sent in November 2022.

C. Upcoming programs

The yearly Winter Reading Program is running from January 3 to February 10. Patrons who log 20 days or more of reading are entered into a drawing.

Dual Language Literacy Days will run on Tuesdays at Esper through February. This programming is partially funded by the Library of Michigan's Improving Access to Information grant program.

Bilingual Arabic/English story times have been booked at Esper and HFCL through spring.

D. Staff meet & greet for 2023

The March 8 meeting of the Library Commission will be held in the HFCL auditorium for another staff meet & greet.

E. COVID test kits

The libraries are distributing COVID-19 test kits in partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

V ACTION ITEMS

A. Auditorium usage

Item carried over from the December 2022 meeting. The commission and administration further discussed the possibility of ceasing public reservations of the HFCL auditorium, and only using the auditorium for Library and City-related purposes. The group ultimately tabled the item, as the auditorium will be under renovation starting in early-to-mid 2023. This will be discussed again once renovation is complete.

VI COMMENTS

City Councilperson Ken Paris was in attendance for the meeting. He extended his praise to the Library administration and staff, and had some inquiries about the search for a new Library Director. He wanted to know why the process was taking so long, how the interviews would be handled, who hired the outside search firm, and who paid for this service. Commission Chairperson Pultorak and Vice Chair Lazar further explained the process and indicated that the Mayor's Office was involved with hiring the search firm and that the commission was in support of this plan.

Commissioner Biggs shared information on a League of Women Voters panel discussion on censorship issues.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50PM