

DEARBORN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
July 12, 2023 – SPECIAL MEETING  
**APPROVED**

➤ ATTENDEES:

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| ➤ 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             | ➤ Excused |
| ➤ Commissioner Ali Dagher                    | ➤ Present |
| ➤ Commissioner Amira Haidar                  | ➤ Present |
| ➤ Commissioner Michelle Jawad                | ➤ Excused |
|  |           |
| ➤ Library Director Betty Adams               | ➤ Present |
| ➤ Deputy Director Julie Schaefer             | ➤ Present |
| ➤ Administrative Librarian Patty Podzikowski | ➤ Present |
| ➤ Office Assistant II Daniel Smith           | ➤ Present |

## **I APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairperson Pultorak called the meeting to order at 5:05PM. He announced a motion to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2023 meeting.

- No edits or amendments advised. Minutes approved.

## **II HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

The commission was joined by Chief Curator Jack Tate, Assistant Chief Curator Matt Graff, and Dearborn Historical Commissioner Kimberly Ismail.

Changes in operations will be phased in gradually. The two departments will need to decide how to collaborate on publicity, and other things such as the websites and historical archives. The Historical Commission will act as an advisory board to the Library Commission, who will make decisions on behalf of the Library and the Historical Museum.

The commission and museum representatives discussed potential ways the Museum could generate revenue, namely through event rentals. Chief Curator Tate reported that the Museum staff has some experience in this regard with the yearly beer tasting and a wedding at the McFadden-Ross House, and other events at the Commandant's Quarters.

## **III FOUNDATION UPDATE**

Three scholarship prizes were awarded for the Juneteenth essay contest. The corresponding event at ArtSpace went well. The Foundation received some positive feedback, and have some takeaways to improve future events.

#### **IV INFORMATION ITEMS**

##### **A. Bryant update**

Director Adams reported that the Library will be working with the Economic and Community Development Department and the DDA to reform the north lot at Bryant Branch, as well as the lot that currently houses the clock tower.

##### **B. Fellowship partnerships**

The Mayor's Office and the Department of Public Health are having fellowships, and the Library is partnering with both. DPH is researching the community's health needs; the Library proposed lending health kits in cooperation with this possible initiative. The Mayor's Office is utilizing Library resources for community input regarding a plot of land in the south end.

##### **C. Auditorium updates**

The carpeting was selected on July 12. The furniture has been selected. The administration is waiting on a timeline. The project will likely begin in August and take 6 to 8 weeks to complete.

##### **D. Underground cable**

The Library has a contract with an engineering company. Henry Ford Centennial will be out of service while the work is completed.

#### **V ACTION ITEMS**

##### **A. Commission contact person for website**

The commission decided that inquiries on the website contact form will go to Chairperson Pultorak. The rest of the commission will be included in a CC.

##### **B. M-rated video games in collection**

The administration requested to amend the Collection Policy to allow M-rated video games. Director Adams reported that they are highly requested on the floor and through the online patron portal. Furthermore, R-rated films and adult fiction books are in the collection and do not require ID to check out. Parental options were discussed, and the administration stated awareness of the topic. However, this proposal would continue services per existing policies and procedures. M-rated video games have been accounted for in the yearly materials budget.

- Motion to approve made by Commissioner Dagher, second by Commissioner Haidar. Motion carried.

## **VI COMMENTS**

Commissioner Alhashemi proposed forming a subcommittee of the commission for community outreach. A lengthy discussion on this matter ensued, with commissioners asking for promotional material that they could use for when out in the community.

The administration is holding all-staff meetings in July, where the strategic plan will be shared. Marketing staff will make a public version after the meetings.

Summer Reading Challenge is underway and going well. The program runs until August 12.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10PM