

DEARBORN PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
Henry Ford Centennial Library - Room 111
Wednesday, October 22, 2025
APPROVED

Commissioners:

- Chairperson Dr. Cheryl Hawkins - Present
- Vice Chair Ali Dagher - Present
- Secretary/Treasurer Jihan Jawad - Present
- Adam Abusalah - Present
- Gerilyn Biggs - Present
- Amira Haidar - Present
- Dr. Ryan Lazar - Excused

Library Administration:

- Library Director Betty Adams - Present
- Assistant Director of Technical Services Mark Hancock - Present
- Assistant Director of Programs & Services Rebecca Hermen - Present
- Assistant Director of Operations Patty Podzikowski - Present
- Office Assistant III Daniel Smith - Present

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM. Chairperson Hawkins motioned to add a section for public comments. Vice Chair Dagher supported.

II. Public Comment

Chairperson Hawkins opened the floor to public comment. No comments were given.

III. Library Director Request to Rescind Resignation

Chairperson Hawkins requested a motion to address Director Adams' request to rescind her resignation offered at the October 8, 2025 Library Commission meeting. Motion made by Vice Chair Dagher, second by Commissioner Abusallah.

Commissioner Biggs asked if the board could rescind something that wasn't official, in that there was no documentation provided. Chairperson Hawkins confirmed that it was an official resignation that was accepted by the board; communications from Hawkins to Adams requesting she contact HR, and to work together on a transition plan denoted that the resignation was accepted.

Chairperson Hawkins requested a motion to discuss and act on Director Adams request to rescind her resignation. Vice Chair Dagher motioned to deny the rescission and accept the resignation. Secretary/Treasurer Jawad supported. Chairperson Hawkins invited further discussion.

Director Adams provided a statement explaining her resignation, acknowledging her mistake, and expressing a desire to move forward with mutual understanding. She

apologized for the resignation, stating that it was made under duress. She explained the confusion around her employment status and expressed the need for clarity in governance. She emphasized her commitment to the Library and the community, and requested the rescission of her resignation.

Chairperson Hawkins asked about Adams' employment under the Executive and Administrative agreement, and confirmed that it is a contract with the City.

Chairperson Hawkins noted that she had been informed that Adams had notified staff of her intent to resign prior to the October 8 meeting. Adams confirmed this to be true.

Chairperson Hawkins invited further comments and discussion. Commissioner Biggs expressed understanding for the circumstances around Adams' resignation, adding that she found the council president's conduct at the prior Commission meeting offensive and unprofessional.

Chairperson Hawkins requested a repeat of the motion at the table. Vice Chair Dagher motioned to not accept the rescission of Adams' verbal resignation. Secretary/Treasurer Jawad supported. Hawkins requested a roll call vote:

- Ali Dagher - Yes
- Adam Abusalah - Yes
- Jihan Jawad - Yes
- Gerilyn Biggs - No
- Cheryl Hawkins - Yes
- Amira Haidar - Yes

The proposal to rescind resignation was not accepted. Chairperson Hawkins confirmed that Director Adams' last day is October 29, 2025.

Chairperson Hawkins requested a motion to begin a transition plan, and requested authority to work with staff to appoint an interim before starting the process of hiring a new Library Director. Vice Chair Dagher motioned to appoint Hawkins as the point person of the transition, and authorized whatever is necessary for the transition to occur. Commissioner Abusalah supported. Motion carried.

Commissioner Biggs commented that clarification is needed on the classification of the Library, stating that she thinks it could be a cyclical issue. Chairperson Hawkins noted to add a discussion to the November meeting agenda.

IV. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chair Dagher, second by Commissioner Haidar. Meeting adjourned at 5:17PM