

DEARBORN PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING
Henry Ford Centennial Library - Room 111
Wednesday, March 11, 2026
APPROVED

Commissioners:

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

Library Administration:

- Interim Director Patty Podzikowski - Present
- Assistant Director of Technical Services Mark Hancock - Present
- Assistant Director of Programs & Services Rebecca Hermen - Excused
- Office Assistant III Daniel Smith - Present

Historical Museum:

- Historical Advisory Commissioner Mary Bugeia - Present

Legal Department:

- Assistant Corporation Counsel Becky Schultz - Present

Department of Public Works:

- Director Tim Hawkins - Present

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Hawkins called the meeting to order at 5:05PM. She noted the lack of a quorum and tabled all action items.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

IV. Approval of Minutes - February 11, 2025 regular meeting

V. Approval of Agenda

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Historical Museum Report

Historical Advisory Commissioner Bugeia reported that the Museum sites have had 490 visitors and 30 research requests as of February 28.

She highlighted good attendance at recent lectures on lumber barons, and Ford Motor Company in World War II. Upcoming events in April will include a lecture on midwest fires, and a banjo concert.

She reported the start of Pioneer School on March 10 for local second-graders, and added the program fulfills curriculum requirements for Michigan history.

She reported that a portrait of Eliza Hudson Clay was transferred to the Edsel and Elanor Ford House, after representatives discovered it in the storage area on a tour. She added that the Museum felt it appropriate that they have it.

B. Library Director's Report

Interim Director Podzikowski shared that the juvenile international language collection was moved to a more prominent location in Youth Services.

She highlighted the community hat tree initiative, and a partnership with Makers with a Mission to supply the tree with hats, gloves, and scarves.

She noted the popularity of the specialty rooms at HFCL, including the Veterans Resource Center and the reflection room. She also highlighted the nursing nook, which was retrofitted from a study room with the help of DPW.

She reported the success of several Library programs, namely the Cotton Candy Science program in late January.

VII. Financial Report

VIII. New Business

A. FY27 Budget Adjustments

Interim Director Podzikowski reported that the Finance Department is in the process of aligning budgets with department heads, and the Library administration will be meeting with them soon.

B. HFCL Closure April 21 - 23, 2026 (Underground Cable Project)

Assistant Director Hancock stated that HFCL would need to be closed for three days to facilitate the installation of cabling and a transformer. He discussed plans to notify patrons through the website, newsletter, and physical signage.

DPW Director Hawkins added that the transformers have arrived, and warmer weather will be necessary to move forward with the project. He anticipated that the full three-day closure is a worst-case scenario, but remains cautious.

C. Acknowledgement of Patron Donation

Item tabled.

IX. Old Business

A. Esper and Bryant Renovations Update

Director Hawkins reported that bids for the Bryant exterior construction project have been reviewed, and they are being finalized for the next City Council meeting.

He reported that bids from MCD Architects are being finalized for the concurrent renovations at Bryant and Esper, and should also be available for the forthcoming Council meeting. He shared project renderings with the group.

Secretary/Treasurer Jawad noted recurring issues with Esper's roof, and asked if they were addressed with the new design. Director Hawkins explained changes in the layout and construction that would mitigate water leakage, and clarified that past leakage through the windows was unrelated to the roof.

B. Director Hiring Committee Update

Assistant Director Hancock reported that the position had been reposted with updated specs. He added that the posting closes March 13, and the committee will reconvene soon after.

C. Millage Update

Chairperson Hawkins reported that she had gotten confirmation from the City Clerk that the millage renewal proposal will be on the August ballot. She added that it had been clarified that the Museum is a division of the Library, likening it to a branch like Bryant or Esper. The millage is intended for the Library, and the Commission decides how funds are used, which could include funding for the Museum.

Assistant Director Podzikowski noted that the Dearborn Library Foundation is preparing for community advocacy and outreach, and creating lawn signs for the millage campaign. Chairperson Hawkins added that Vice Chair Dagher had agreed to do promotional work with various media outlets.

X. Additional Comments

Interim Director Podzikowski discussed the decommissioned exhibit collection, and reported that FOLD will be working with John King Books to evaluate and potentially purchase items. She added that proceeds go toward the branch projects.

XI. Next Meeting - April 8, 2026

XII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:29 PM.