

**DEARBORN PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA**  
Henry Ford Centennial Library - Room 111  
Wednesday, July 8, 2026  
5:00 pm

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment
- III. Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- IV. Approval of Minutes - June 10, 2026 regular meeting
- V. Approval of Agenda
- VI. Consent Agenda
  - A. Historical Museum Report
  - B. Library Director's Report
- VII. Financial Report
- VIII. Old Business
  - A. Bryant and Esper Renovations Update
- IX. Public Comment
- X. Next Meeting - September 9, 2026
- XI. Adjournment

# Director's Report

## July 2026



# Strategic & Operational Wins

**New Library Director:** The Library Commission and City of Dearborn Administration formally appointed Patty Podzikowski as the City of Dearborn Library Director, effective June 15, 2026.

**Collaborative Effort:** In preparation for a planned facility upgrade, the Rochester Hills Public Library team visited the Henry Ford Centennial Library to study how other institutions effectively utilize and manage their public spaces. Staff from Dearborn were invited to tour their library in the future.

**Staffing Transition Status:** Full-time staff members are actively executing the transition to the temporary, reduced-capacity staffing model. All operational requirements—including specialized training, revised scheduling, and cross-functional duties—have been fully prepared and assigned.

# Bryant and Esper Branch Modernization

**Project Status:** Asbestos abatement started June 17 and completed on June 23, 2026.

**Key Renovations:** The combined efforts of Library staff and DPW employees led to a quick turnaround in preparing Bryant for the moving company and eventual renovation work. Several meetings commenced with the project managers, library and City staff at both branches.

**Patron input:** Many patrons agreed that Bryant Library was long overdue for updates and expressed hope that the original aesthetic will remain intact. They are also appreciative of the fact that there will once again be parking spaces available.

**Collection Status:** All newly purchased items from Bryant were integrated into the circulating collection at Henry Ford Centennial Library so that patrons have access to the most current holdings. Other items were put into secure storage.



# Growth & Community Impact

**Circulation:** The Lending Lab area was organized for better access and the attractive display encourages more patron interest. Circulation numbers are down, but there was a slight increase in library cardholders from June 2025.

**Engagement Growth:** Adult Grab & Go Crafts are always popular. June's craft allowed patrons to create a Zen Garden while July and August are all about fossils and geodes! Drop in and pick up a craft, while supplies last. All supplies and instructions are included.

**SparkLab Usage:** Four new patrons registered and there were eleven paid services. There were 14 different machine uses.

**Processing:** This month 614 items were added to the system. Additionally, staff have prioritized a new collection received with grant funds. STEAM Kits for all ages are now available for checkout!

**Automation:** The department continues to assist with multiple programs. Library technology use included approximately 13k website visitors and 31k Wi-Fi visitors.



# Programs and Outreach

**Peace Park Story times:** Youth Services staff are presenting lively story times at Peace Park West with great success.

**Dearborn Senior Housing Outreach:** Adult Services staff have been visiting local area Senior Living facilities for many years. The residents love these visits and appreciate all that the library has to offer.

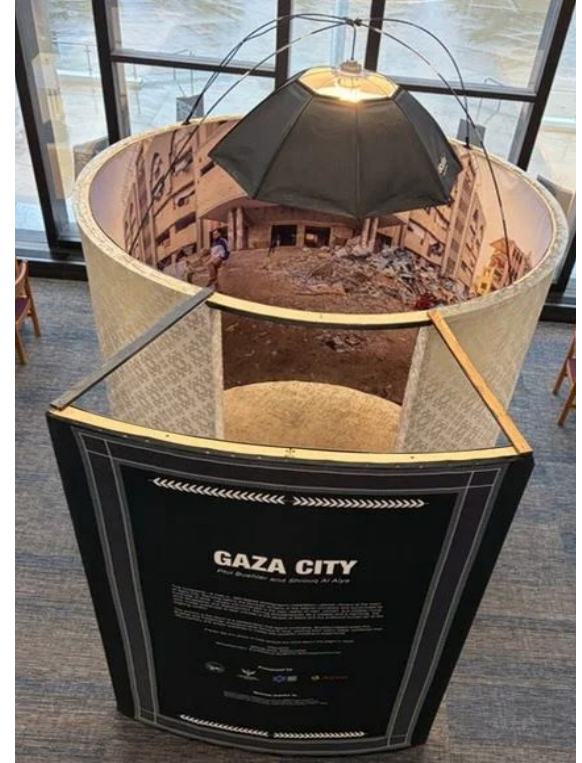
**Summer Market:** Library staff attended the June Summer Market, appearing alongside representatives from We Shall Read and the Library Foundation. Collaboration amongst them focused on literacy offerings to the Market participants.

**Activities:** A wide variety of programs intended for all ages had many participants. Open Mic night, lectures and an Arabic craft led by a local artist and teacher for adults were very popular. Crochet Club, Rock Club and Kite Flying were a hit with children!



# Community Connection

The Henry Ford Centennial Library featured two distinct and important installations. Located on the 2nd floor, you can view The Long March: Herblock and the Civil Rights Era (a panel exhibit on American history) and step into Gaza City, a highly immersive panoramic cyclorama.



# Summer Reading Challenge

## Unearth a Story @ the Library



The Summer Reading Challenge is in full swing and as of June 25th, 376 patrons were registered. Highlights include the opportunity to create miniature libraries, finding hidden dinosaurs and being sworn in as an official Junior Ranger!