

**GENESEE DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD MEETING  
at  
Genesee District Library Headquarters  
5:30 p.m.  
4195 W. Pasadena Ave  
Flint, MI 48504  
June 12, 2023  
Minutes**

- Call to Order: 5:31 p.m.
- Present: Barnes, Crites, Hinz, Ryals-Massey and Towarnicky.
- Also Present: P. Mooney (Corporation Counsel), D. Conklin, A. Goldyn and A. Gamble (Auditor).
- Absent: V. Conerly-Moon and D. Hostetler.
- Public Comments: None.
- Approval of Consent Agenda: L. Ryals-Massey stated she would like to revise the agenda so the 2022 Audit Report can be handled prior to Board Development. F. Hinz moved to approve the revised consent agenda. Motion supported by r. Crites. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2022 Audit Report: A. Goldyn introduced A. Gamble as one of the audit team members from Lewis & Knopf. A. Gamble presented the highlights of the 2022 Audit Report. He stated that A. Goldyn does a fantastic job. F. Hinz inquired about defense against possible fraud and A. Gamble replied that GDL has strong internal controls to prevent fraud. T. Barnes inquired if there is a maximum amount we can be overfunded on the OPEB liability and A. Gamble replied at this time there is not. L. Ryals-Massey inquired if there is a rule about the maximum amount of compensated absences based upon the organizations size and A. Gamble replied there is not. F. Hinz moved to approve the Audit Report as presented and submit it to the State of Michigan by the June 30 deadline. Motion supported by J. Towarnicky. Roll call: ayes – Barnes, Crites, Hinz, Ryals-Massey and Towarnicky; nays – none.
- Board Development: Nothing to report.
- MMLC: Nothing to report.
- Corporation Counsel: Nothing to report.
- GDL Foundation: Nothing to report.
- Written Reports: J. Towarnicky stated it is great to see that we are doing outreach to the local charter/private schools, as well as the public schools.  
  
F. Hinz inquired if the Board Members are protected against lawsuits and D. Conklin replied that the Director and Board Members are protected. L. Ryals-Massey stated that Genesee District Library has a policy in place regarding materials selection. D. Conklin stated that today he received an email complaint regarding a Pride display at the Montrose branch and he responded that our current Strategic Plan has a section about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. He also stated that he has received positive feedback from numerous people about that Pride display.

Written Reports  
(continued):

L. Ryals-Massey inquired if there is an annual renewal cost on the Able Eyes contract and D. Conklin replied it is just a one-time cost. L. Ryals-Massey inquired how would be responsible for updating the information in the app. D. Conklin replied that it is not an app, but static photos and layouts of each branch that would be placed on our website and possibly Google Maps. L. Ryals-Massey inquired if patrons indicated this was something that was needed. D. Conklin stated that it is intended to help people that have anxiety about going to new places or have a handicap and need to know if they will be able to access the building. D. Conklin stated it is similar to Google Maps Street View where you get a 365-degree view from where you are standing. L. Ryals-Massey stated most of our branches are small and is not sure about the return on investment on this project. D. Conklin stated that A. Goldyn would have spoke up if there were financial issues about moving forward with this project.

L. Ryals-Massey asked for clarification on the TLN voting. D. Conklin replied that GDL will have four votes for four different trustees. L. Ryals-Massey stated that is not how the report reads and D. Conklin stated he will have an answer at the next meeting.

L. Ryals-Massey stated that D. Conklin's reports show which goal of the Strategic Plan it applies to. She inquired if there is a master document listing all these items under each goal of the Strategic Plan. D. Conklin stated that was not his understanding. J. Towarnicky stated it would be helpful to see the various achievements listed in one document. She also stated that she has an idea of how it can be done without a lot of extra work and will get with D. Conklin on her suggestion.

L. Ryals-Massey inquired if the Fenton location will be closed while the renovations are being completed on the outside of the building and D. Conklin replied it will not be necessary to be closed.

L. Ryals-Massey noted that someone tripped over a footstool and inquired why it was out. D. Conklin stated that a someone must have pulled it over to reach something on a higher shelf and did not put it back in place.

L. Ryals-Massey offered kudos to R. Tackabury. She believes he goes above and beyond in the tech tutoring.

F. Hinz stated that in A. Goldyn's report it is stated that GDL can withstand another financial crisis and inquired what measures have been put in place. A. Goldyn stated that over the years, she has been able to build up the general fund to have approximately a year's worth of operating revenue. D. Conklin stated that the reserve funds give you time to make necessary adjustments over a longer period of time.

Monthly Statistics:

L. Ryals-Massey stated it would be nice if the statistics had a narrative to go with the figures. T. Barnes stated each slide could have a short narrative. D. Conklin inquired if it should be in his report or as part of the statistical report. L. Ryals-Massey replied it should be in the statistical report. J. Towarnicky stated that simple bullet point narrative might be more helpful to highlight something that really stands out.

Finance Committee:

Nothing to report.

Personnel/Policy  
Committee:

L. Ryals-Massey stated that the Chairperson of the committee is not here. She stated she would prefer that D. Hostetler present the Director's Evaluation results. She stated that the Director's Evaluation will be tabled until the July meeting.

Genesee Valley Location

Lease Negotiations: P. Mooney presented a draft of the proposed lease agreement with the Genesee Valley Center. He stated the lease would be for five years beginning on January 1, 2023 and ending on December 31, 2027. He highlighted some of the basic details of the agreement. Board Members asked various questions pertaining to the lease agreement; however, P. Mooney stated he did not have the answers and would have to consult with C. Stritmatter. L. Ryals-Massey stated that since there are several unanswered questions, she stated the lease agreement would be tabled until the July 17 meeting.

Director Evaluation: L. Ryals-Massey stated this agenda item will be tabled until the July meeting.

Able Eyes: D. Conklin stated this was the 3-D interior view of each of the branches that was previously discussed tonight. He stated it is similar to a virtual tour of a house posted on real estate websites. R. Crites inquired if it was a one time deal and D. Conklin replied yes. F. Hinz inquired if patrons would be included in the pictures and D. Conklin replied the pictures would be done while the branch is closed. L. Ryals-Massey stated she is struggling to see the benefit of this. J. Towarnicky pulled up the Able Eyes views that Capital Area District Library did for their downtown building and showed it to several Board Members. L. Ryals-Massey inquired how would it be marketed to our patrons. D. Conklin replied that emails would be sent to patrons that opted in for promotional email messages. L. Ryals-Massey inquired about any kind of discount and D. Conklin stated there is a ten percent discount if we have all the branches done at one time. L. Ryals-Massey inquired if the \$35,000 cost included the discount and D. Conklin replied it does. J. Towarnicky stated she has used this before and it was very helpful to view the layout of her daughter's dorm room and apartment ahead of time. J. Towarnicky stated this would be a wonderful marketing tool to showcase all our facilities. L. Ryals-Massey stated it would be nice to have a list of pros and cons from K. Flynn and T. Sumpter, who recommended this tool. L. Ryals-Massey stated this topic would be tabled until the July meeting.

Board Comments: R. Crites inquired if we were investigating the use of AI for library usage. D. Conklin replied we are not since AI technology is too new.

L. Ryals-Massey stated she would like everyone to think about board development and what Board Members would like to know more about.

L. Ryals-Massey stated the Personnel/Policy Committee did a great job putting together the pathfinder. She would like to see it presented at a future library conference.

L. Ryals-Massey stated she hoped there are more informative materials that can be added to the Trustee Handbook for future Board Members. She stated that D. Conklin will be getting copies of Roberts' Rules of Order for each Board Member.

L. Ryals-Massey stated that her password for the Michigan Library Association (MLA) website is no longer working. She stated they have a lot of valuable resources on the MLA website; however, you need to be registered in order to access it.

Adjournment: 6:50 pm.