

DEARBORN PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING
Henry Ford Centennial Library - Room 111
Friday, February 21, 2025
APPROVED

Commissioners:

- Chairperson Marcel Pultorak - Present
- Vice Chair Dr. Ryan Lazar - Present
- Secretary/Treasurer Jihan Jawad - Present
- Zeinab Alhashemi - Present
- Haya Bacharouch - Absent
- Gerilyn Biggs - Present
- Ali Dagher - Present
- Dr. Cheryl Hawkins - Present

Library Administration:

- Library Director Betty Adams - Present
- Assistant Director of Technical Services Mark Hancock - Excused
- 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 by Chairperson Pultorak at 5:02PM.

II. Approval of Minutes - December 4 & December 9, 2024 special meetings

Minutes approved as submitted.

III. Department Reports

A. Library Foundation

Assistant Director Podzikowski reported that the Foundation's secretary will be resigning, but they have recruited two new members, and the board remains active. She reported that the community appeal has gone out and donations are steadily coming in the mail.

Director Adams noted that the Friends of the Library-Dearborn and the Library Foundation will have liaisons present at future meetings.

B. Director's Report

Reports will be given quarterly at the recommendation of the commission.

C. Historical Museum

Historical Commissioner Mariya Fogarasi was in attendance on behalf of the Historical Museum.

She reported that the Museum had hired one new employee.

She reported that the MLK Day event went well, and had record-breaking attendance despite frigid weather.

The Museum had received a plethora of new artifacts, including photos of Dearborn's first female judge and decor from Hong Kong Restaurant.

The Museum is looking for volunteers for the upcoming Pioneer School Program. There are currently 24 positions that need to be filled.

The Dearborn Historical Society will host a lecture by Karen Dybis about the Ford-Wyoming Drive-In.

The Museum will host Late Night at the Commandant's Quarters on Friday, March 7 from 9pm to midnight for Ramadan.

IV. New Business

A. Request to Decommission Library Exhibit Collection

The administration proposed to decommission the Exhibit Collection. Director Adams reasoned that the items have been in storage since 1964, and it's become costly. Furthermore, the fragile state of many of the items limits their availability to the public.

The commission and administration discussed preferred channels and markets to ensure these items would reach fitting locations. The items that don't sell could be donated, and others that can feasibly be retained will be preserved with the assistance of the Museum.

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

B. Review Library Privacy Policy

The Library Privacy Policy is a new policy proposed by the administration. The policy was drafted by Automation staff and is modeled from that of other libraries. Director Adams stated that it is particularly inclusive of the Library's digital assets. The commission voted to approve the policy before it is reviewed by the City's Legal department.

- Motion to approve made by Commissioner Dagher, second by Vice Chair Lazar. Commissioner Alhashemi abstained. Motion carried.

C. Review Strategic Plan, Vision & Mission

The administration presented an updated Strategic Plan. Director Adams stated that each division has at least five points per strategic priority of tangible goals and desired outcomes. The Strategic Plan will not be released publicly at this time as to not keep the Library beholden to certain outcomes. The commission recommended a three-year plan, to be followed until 2028.

- Motion to approve made by Vice Chair Lazar, second by Commissioner Jawad. Motion carried.

D. Recommendation to Relocate Salina Locker

Director Adams reported that an agreement could not be reached between Dearborn Public Schools and the Library regarding service to the Salina Smartlocker. Director Adams stated that the restricted availability of the locker opposes its original purpose of broad community access in an area with limited service. The administration proposed to begin the process of relocating the locker. A new site has yet to be determined.

- Motion to approve made by Commissioner Alhashemi, second by Vice Chair Lazar and Commissioner Hawkins. Motion carried.
- Vice Chair Lazar departed the meeting at 5:54PM

E. Library Legal Representation

Director Adams reported that she had consulted internal counsel for clarification regarding Dearborn Public Library's status as a PA 164 establishment and did not receive a definitive response. She proposed to confer with a library law specialist to determine such a classification, as well as to clarify property ownerships and financial responsibilities. The commission recommended consulting with three separate attorneys and revisiting the issue at the March meeting.

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

V. Announcements

- A motion was made by Commissioner Dagher to authorize Chairperson Pultorak to speak on behalf of the commission with the Mayor regarding the State of the City address and the Bryant landscaping project. Motion seconded by Commissioner Alhashemi. Chairperson Pultorak abstained. Motion carried.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:04PM.