

DEARBORN PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING
Henry Ford Centennial Library - Room 111
Wednesday, April 8, 2026
APPROVED

Commissioners:

- Chairperson Dr. Cheryl Hawkins - Present
- Vice Chair Ali Dagher - Present
- Secretary/Treasurer Jihan Jawad - Present
- Adam Abusalah - Present
- 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 - Present
- Office Assistant III Daniel Smith - Present

Historical Museum:

- Historical Advisory Commission Chair Kayne Karnbach - Present

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Hawkins called the meeting to order at 5:00PM

II. Public Comment

Dearborn resident and Library staffperson Amy Stegner pitched a social media campaign, and requested that staff make a short video with the Commission at the May meeting. The Commission had no objections.

III. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

None presented.

IV. Approval of Minutes - February 11 & March 11, 2026 regular meetings

A motion to approve was made by Vice Chair Dagher, supported by Secretary/Treasurer Jawad. Minutes approved as submitted.

V. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve was made by Vice Chair Dagher, supported by Commissioner Abusalah. Agenda approved as submitted.

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Historical Museum Report

B. Library Director's Report

A motion to approve was made by Vice Chair Dagher, supported by Secretary/Treasurer Jawad. Consent agenda approved as submitted.

VII. Financial Report

Interim Director Podzikowski noted that the Library's budget hearing with City Council will be on Wednesday, April 29. She added that the Library's accountant would be invited to the May meeting to assist with any concerns before the fiscal year end.

VIII. New Business

A. Acknowledgement of Patron Donation

Interim Director Podzikowski reported that the Library had received a \$1,000 donation from a patron who wished to remain anonymous. She noted that the patron had been acknowledged in private.

Historical Advisory Commission Chair Karnbach reported that the Museum was awarded a \$25k grant from the America250MI program to update the schoolhouse in the basement of the McFadden-Ross House.

IX. Old Business

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

Assistant Director Hancock provided updates regarding the project and forthcoming closure. He reported that a generator would power the IT room, and a minimal crew will be available to fulfill holds at the lockers, and accept deliveries. He added that Bryant Branch's hours were expanded for these dates.

He noted that a press release was shared with the City communications department to inform the public of the facility closure. Posts will also be made on the Library website, newsletter, and social media accounts.

B. Esper and Bryant Renovations Update

Interim Director Podzikowski reported that the bidding process is being finalized with the Mayor's Office. She added that bids came in over budget, and some aspects of the project may be scaled back. She noted that construction should begin in May, contingent on the asbestos abatement process at the facilities.

C. Director Hiring Committee Update

Assistant Director Hancock reported that the committee selected candidates at their last meeting. He added that the committee will conduct the first round of interviews, and the Commission will conduct the second. Interview questions will be shared with the Commission.

D. Millage Update

Chairperson Hawkins had no new information to share. She anticipated that marketing materials from partner groups will be available soon and shared with the Commission. She noted their plans to promote more heavily in June when

ballots are released. She added that a social media campaign and radio spots are planned.

Interim Director Podzikowski added that the Dearborn Library Foundation will be present at various community events, including the farm markets and Taste of Dearborn. Additionally, they will be printing bookmarks and lawn signs for the campaign.

X. Additional Comments

Historical Advisory Chair Karnbach reported that the Museum had 750 visitors in March. He attributed the increase in visits to the beginning of the Pioneer School sessions.

Commissioner Abusalah complimented the Museum staff's social media videos.

Historical Advisory Chairperson Karnbach reported that the Historical Advisory Commission is updating their bylaws, and they are being reviewed by the City's legal department. He anticipated the bylaws will be approved at their April meeting. He added that their strategic plan will be updated in the near future.

XI. Next Meeting - May 13, 2026

XII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chair Dagher, supported by Secretary/Treasurer Jawad. The regular meeting concluded at 5:23PM, followed by a closed session.