

**DEARBORN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING**  
Henry Ford Centennial Library – Room 111  
Wednesday, May 13, 2026  
**Proposed**

**Commissioners:**

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

**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
- Historical Advisory Commissioner Mary Bugeia – Present

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to at 5:06PM

**II. Public Comment**

Members of the Library’s Social Media Committee filmed a short video in preparation for Library Card Signup Month in September.

Interim Director Podzikowski noted that the Library is hosting a volunteer recognition breakfast on May 20.

**III. Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

No conflicts of interest to disclose.

**IV. Approval of Minutes – April 8, 2026 regular meeting**

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

**V. Approval of Agenda**

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

**VI. Consent Agenda**

**A. Historical Museum Report**

The report was pulled for discussion. Historical Advisory Commission Chair Karnbach reported 700 visits across all Museum sites, bolstered by the Pioneer School program. He added that the Museum had taken 30 archival requests.

He reported that the archival interns have been on behind-the-scenes tours of Little Caesar's Headquarters and Greenfield Village. He reported that the Museum's Model T has a loaner engine for the Memorial Day parade, while the original is being rebuilt. He reported that the annual Banjo Concert had the highest attendance in its history, with 85 attendees.

Historical Advisory Commissioner Bugeia reported that more trees have been planted on the Museum grounds. She reported plans to plant a Liberty Tree on the grounds in cooperation with the Daughters of the American Revolution.

She reported that local business Lolly By Golly rented the Museum lawn for an event with around 50 vendors, and brought in \$700 in revenue. She discussed upcoming events, including a lecture on Detroit's 325th anniversary, and the June 30 Teddy Bear Picnic.

Vice Chair Dagher suggested that the Museum explore the potential for renting out the lawn for a wider range of events.

Motion to approve the report made by Commissioner Abusalah, supported by Commissioner Haidar. Motion carried.

**B. Director's Report**

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

**VII. Financial Report**

Chairperson Hawkins reported that the budget hearing went smoothly, and Council expressed support and excitement for the branch renovations.

**VIII. New Business**

**A. Circulation Policy Request Change to DVD checkout limit**

The administration proposed on behalf of the Circulation department to increase the DVD checkout limit from six to 12. The board discussed and had no opposition to the increase.

Chairperson Hawkins proposed the request be pulled as policy and designated as an operational activity. Commissioner Abusalah supported. The board voted and approved unanimously.

Chairperson Hawkins noted that any other policies that could be operational activities should come before the Commission for review, and expulsion as they may warrant.

**B. Grant Notification**

Interim Director Podzikowski reported that the Library was awarded an LSTA grant for \$1,496 for STEAM activity supplies. She added that a second grant is being pursued with the assistance of the Department of Grants & Philanthropy.

**C. Nominations for Officers**

Chairperson Hawkins noted that officer elections are to occur in June. The board discussed and opted to bring the same slate, with an option to write in candidates.

Vice Chair Dagher motioned to approve the same slate, supported by Commissioner Abusalah. Motion carried.

**D. Council's request to look into .gov domain for the Library website**

Assistant Director Hancock reported that he is working with the City IT department to obtain a .gov domain. He noted that the current .org domain would be retained for a period of time and forwarded to the new domain, should it be acquired.

**IX. Old Business**

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

Assistant Director Hancock reported that the project went well, and wrapped up a day early. A change order was submitted to install new outlets in the SparkLab. He added that the vendor will follow up with punch list items, but there will be no further impact to the public.

**B. Esper and Bryant Renovations Update**

Chairperson Hawkins reported that the cost of construction has reached \$11.6 million, as the cost of materials have skyrocketed. The group discussed funding sources for the projects, including a temporary layoff of the majority of part-time staff for the duration of the construction. Interim Director Podzikowski noted that efforts were being made to shift some staff into open positions within the City. Commissioners asked some follow-up questions regarding the part time staff layoffs and approved of the plan of action.

Assistant Director Hancock expressed frustration at the staff layoffs, and feared that many staff would not return. Assistant Director Hermen expressed concern for the potential impact on the millage campaign.

Podzikowski reported that the architecture firm submitted a draft that will be presented for City Council approval. She reported that she had been in contact

with movers for items at Bryant Branch, and is awaiting their availability for storage. She added that Bryant may close as early as May 23 for abatement before building renovations begin.

**C. Director Hiring Committee Update**

Commissioner Haider reported that the committee is waiting to receive the candidates' ratings sheets.

**D. Memorial Day library status**

Assistant Director Hermen reported that the first floor of HFCL will be open for access to restrooms. The VIP luncheon tent will be set up in the east staff parking lot. The second and third floors will be closed off to the public.

She added that DPW have been maintaining the property throughout the week, and have removed several dead trees from the grounds.

**X. Additional Comments**

Vice Chair Dagher suggested a weekly message highlighting Library services. Assistant Director Hermen noted that the Social Media Committee had a plan in place, and will check on their progress.

The group discussed the importance of the millage renewal, and the need for community awareness and clear communication.

**XI. Next Meeting - June 10, 2026**

**XII. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Abusalah, second by Commissioner Haidar. The meeting adjourned at 5:58PM.