

**HAZEL PARK MEMORIAL LIBRARY
123 EAST NINE MILE ROAD
HAZEL PARK, MICHIGAN 48030**

**LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2014, 6:30 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Hazel Park Memorial (HPML) Board of Directors was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Sandra Pond. All members of the Board were in attendance.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Sandra Pond, President
Linda Zeiss, Secretary
Ed Bullock
Irene Zagar
Barbara Winter
Timothy Wright
Corrine Stocker, Library Director

IN THE AUDIENCE: Shirl Howell, Brad Gurgul, Bob Peterson and Bobby McDermott

CONVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: N/A

ADDITIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Zeiss made a motion to approve the agenda. Zagar supported the motion. The motion was approved, 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Winter made a motion to "receive and file" the minutes for the December 23, 2013 meeting; Bullock supported the motion. The motion was approved, 6-0.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

NOTE: A COMPLETE NARRATIVE OF THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT IS ATTACHED.
The Director placed the following monthly documents in each Board member's packet:

CIRCULATION REPORT FOR DECEMBER, 2013
DECEMBER, 2013 PROGRAM STATISTICS
JANUARY, 2014 INVOICES
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 12/31/2013

Bullock motioned to "receive and file" the Director's Report. Winter supported the motion. The motion carried, 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Auditor Presentation of Financial Statement for the last fiscal year (7/1/2012-6/30/2013). Our Finance Director, Laci Christiansen, presented the results of our annual audit, which was conducted by Alan C. Young & Associates. She pointed out that our property tax revenue dropped from \$489,000 in 2009 to \$349,000 in 2013, a drop of \$140,000. Last year, the library spent \$60,000 from their fund balance. In other words, the Library spent \$60,000 more than it brought in. She pointed out that the library only has \$63,198 on unassigned fund balance remaining, and that we budgeted to spend \$62,000 during the current fiscal year, which would leave only \$1,000 on uncommitted funds in our fund balance. She added that the Library also has an additional \$100,000 left in its fund balance, but that amount has already been committed by the library board toward boiler replacement and future retiree healthcare costs. She urged the Board to start making decisions about changes that can be made. She stated that if we don't make changes, we have a maximum survival of 1-3 years. She suggested that the Board look at salaries and fringes, reducing hours and exploring alternate sources of revenue, such as a district library. She urged that we make changes sooner rather than later in order to be able to survive and service the community for years to come.
- Officer Elections.
Linda Zeiss was nominated as Secretary by Winter; Zagar supported the nomination. The nomination carried, 6-0.
Tim Wright was nominated as Vice President by Winter; Zagar supported the nomination. The nomination carried, 6-0.
Barbara Winter was nominated as President by Bullock; Wright supported the nomination. The nomination carried, 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Strategic Plan. Stocker reported that very few Board members had completed the Strategic Plan questionnaire. She requested that Board members who have not already done so complete the questionnaire and return it to her by no later than February 7, 2014.

- Library Board Meeting Schedule for 2014. This was presented by Stocker and included in all of the Directors' Packets.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

PLANNING: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Robert Peterson: Confronted Bullock about his defunct Library Friends group and its finances. He questioned whether Bullock is guilty of larceny by conversion.

Bullock responded that he was not aware of any problems with the finances of the original Friends group. He also stated that it is very rare and remote for a member of a Library Friends group to be involved in a conflict of interest situation. Barbara Winter asked him if he would be willing to ask the members of his Friends group to meet and consider whether they would be willing to be combined with the current Friends group. He said that he would call his members and see if they could arrange a meeting. He agreed to update us about the situation at the next Board meeting.

Bobby McDermott: He asked Bullock if they have 501C3 status, which Bullock confirmed. He asked Bullock if the new group could merge with Bullock's group so that they would be able to have instant 501C3 status, without having to wait upwards of a year for their own. He also talked about the annual music festival that is currently being planned by the Friends. He stated that is time for us to move forward, be reasonable and work together.

BOARD MEMBERS' AND DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

Stocker: Congratulations to Barbara and Tim. Maybe new officers will give us new focus, and maybe that focus will be the library. We are all here—or we should all be here—in the spirit of helping the library. The library needs help now more than ever. We just heard from our auditor that our financial situation is dire, and yet all of this Machiavellian drama still rules the day, and it can't. Our focus here has to be library business—that's why we are meeting. We have so many ancient personality squabbles and issues. You need to get along and if you don't feel respect for each other then fake it. Like Bobby said, we need to move forward, we need to work together and we need to be reasonable. I'm appealing to all of you to do that because we need to focus on library business. I'm sorry if I offended anyone, but this needed to be said, and we are about to lose Tim if this situation doesn't change.

Bullock: He presented research that he did about handling an officer election in which there is not a quorum. He proceeded to read several paragraphs from *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 10th Edition*, which I have attached.

(Library Board's Minutes of 1/27/2014)

Winter: I'm going to find out what is the conflict of interest and I'm going to spell it out. I'm going to talk to the City Attorney because I don't believe that helping out is a conflict of interest. We are here to help out and we wanted to be elected because we have even more of an intention to help out than regular people. We should take our egos and our conflicts aside and work together.

Wright: I really find it embarrassing and disgusting that I have to sit here listening to bickering and people going out of their way not to get along. We're all a group here for one purpose and that's to better the library and do things and work together so that the library doesn't close. So far, I've been to two meetings and find it a waste of 45 minutes that I have to sit here and listen to this.

Zagar: Nothing.

Zeiss: I find it strange that we have two Friends groups and yet only one is active.

Pond: Congratulations to the President and Vice President. I just want everyone to keep in mind something that has been brought to our attention in the past; it's something that we may want to consider down the road, going back over our bylaws. Like Jan Drumm said, our bylaws do not state which Roberts Rules are being referenced in accordance with our bylaws. We've got to tie that down for the future and it might be a good practice for us down the road.

ADJOURNMENT:

Bullock motioned adjournment at 7:20 P.M. Zeiss supported the motion. The motion carried 6-0.