

## MUSKEGON AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

A meeting of the Muskegon Area District Library Board was held on Monday, March 17, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at the Muskegon Area District Library Administration Building, 4845 Airline Road, Muskegon. Staff present: L. Abramson, A. Bussott, M. Chandler-Nash, P. Crosby, J. Enders, K. Ferski, B. Hall, M. Higginbottom-Johnson, A. Susalla, R. Suszek, and K. Wisniewski. Also present, M. Anderson, Legal Counsel and member of the public in attendance: A. Pickard.

R. Scolnik, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Hodges, Arter, Aerts, Vanaelst, Scolnik

**Excused:** Richards, and Hughes

### **Approval of Agenda**

### **Motion by Hodges, Second by Vanaelst**

That the Agenda is approved as presented.

**Motion Carried**

### **Board Development**

None.

### **Consent Agenda**

### **Motion by Aerts, Second by Vanaelst**

That the MADL Board approves the Consent Agenda as presented.

**Motion Carried**

### **Vouchers for February 2025**

### **Motion by Hodges, Second by Vanaelst**

**That the MADL Board approves the Vouchers for February 2025**

### **ROLL CALL**

**AYES:** Hodges, Scolnik, Vanaelst, Arter, Aerts

**NAYS:** None

**Motion Carried**

### **Committee Reports**

R. Scolnik noted the Marketing/Rebranding/Millage Committee met to finalize plans for an event at the Women's Club on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 4:30.

### Reports/Questions

R. Suszek reported that the Library of Michigan was notified about a potential impact on the IMLS (Federal Institute for Library and Museum Services) and that one of the funding sources the State of Michigan utilizes for Melcat services is an IMLS grant. As of now, Melcat services are funded and guaranteed through September 2025, however, there is uncertainty about what the future of Melcat will be because the state has not identified funding to pick up where the IMLS grant will leave off. Furthermore, we are waiting to receive a more detailed report from the Library of Michigan to see what the plan looks like and if Melcat services can be preserved. More information will be provided as it develops but as of now, no action is needed.

M. Higginbottom-Johnson spoke about the volume of incidents and accident reports throughout the different branch locations during February. She provided reassurance that these incidents are being handled with assistance from law enforcement, as needed. R. Suszek also provided additional information about how staff are being followed up with after each incident and to educate staff on how to properly handle these situations. Staff have been receptive and understand that these incidents occur and it is part of our culture to report these incidents. Lastly, he reported that recent staff in-service trainings have involved mental health professionals from Healthwest and Norton Shores Police Department to speak with staff about handling difficult situations and help them to become accustomed to dealing with these situations.

M. Chandler-Nash reported on HR and staff updates. She also stated that ESTA was put into compliance and that any issues relating to that process have been resolved.

### Old Business

Ron Suszek mentioned that the Strategic Planning Committee met, and they are working on scheduling a time dedicated to generating more ideas and solidifying details.

### New Business

K. Wisniewski provided an update about the new website that will launch on April 23, 2025. The new website features added accessibility and technical features such as quick links, lists and resources. He further mentioned that he worked closely with marketing on the new website to include the most up to date information, pictures, and overall design.

R. Suszek welcomed P. Crosby who comes to MADL with a wealth of public library experience. She plans to help with early literacy needs in an interim capacity but also plans to help with MADL's organizational structure and improvements to communications. He also welcomed Alec Bussott, the new Bookmobile Operator who started on March 17, 2025. Alec comes to MADL with experience in public libraries and schools. During the search to hire someone to operate the Bookmobile, opportunities were taken to restore the Bookmobile to its original footprint and to use it for providing additional public services.

R. Suszek also reported the need for new furniture at the Norton Shores Branch and suggested that we use the accumulated interest on the Eagan funds to do so. After gathering costs and estimates for these improvements, a proposal will be provided to the board. Suszek estimates the cost to be around \$30,000.00.

R. Suszek discussed the proposed Material Deselection and Disposal policy and explained that this would supersede the current policy. The new policy would provide more clarity and detail as to what material is deselected and the process for liquidating the material to create space for new purchases. This process is necessary to maintain the most up-to-date, relevant, and user-focused collections at MADL. The revenue generated from the sale of unused library materials will be utilized to support MADL and its programs or services, including but not limited to programming, collection purchases, and staff development.

**Motion by Aerts, Second by Arter**

**That the MADL Board approves the Material Deselection and Disposal policy as presented.**

ROLL CALL

**AYES: Hodges, Vanaelst, Arter, Scolnik, Aerts**

**NAYS: None**

**Motion Carried**

Lastly, R. Suszek discussed the approval of ballot language for the August 5<sup>th</sup> millage. The ballot language has been reviewed and discussed with attorney A. Seurynck. The board has approved the .3 mill increase previously, so this action officially approves this language and authorizes the library to forward the proposal to the county clerk.

**Motion by Hodges, Second by Arter**

**Library Millage Proposal**

Shall the Muskegon Area District Library, County of Muskegon, Michigan, be authorized to levy annually an amount not to exceed 1.5143 mills (\$1.5143 on each \$1,000 of taxable value), of which 1.2143 mills is a renewal of the previously authorized millage rate that expires in 2025 and .30 mill is new additional millage, against all taxable property within the Muskegon Area District Library district for a period of ten (10) years, 2026 through 2035, inclusive, for the purpose of providing funds for all district library purposes authorized by law? The estimate of the revenue the Muskegon Area District Library will collect in the first year of levy (2026) if the millage is approved and levied by the Library is approximately \$6,300,000. A portion of the revenue collected may be subject to capture by the Muskegon County Land Bank Authority; the Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority, and the Brownfield Redevelopment Authorities of the City of Norton Shores and the Village of Ravenna.

ROLL CALL

**AYES: Scolnik, Vanaelst, Arter, Aerts, Hodges**

**NAYS: None**

**Motion Carried**

**Public Comment**

None.

**Board Comment**

L. Aerts spoke to ask follow up questions about when the Bookmobile will be back in operation as she has been receiving a lot of inquiries regarding this service. B. Hall stated that it is a priority to get the Bookmobile back in operation and the new Bookmobile Librarian is training now.

**Adjournment: R. Scolnik adjourned the meeting at 4:48 p.m.**

**Reviewed by: Linda Aerts, Board Secretary**