

**MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES**

1. At a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Monroe County Library System held on January 11, 2023, the meeting was called to order by Chair Calder at 5:00 p.m. Ms. Calder declared that a quorum was present.

Present: Catharine Calder, Chair; Rob Peven, Vice-Chair; Bernie Smith, Trustee; Rita Gordon, Trustee; and Nancy Bellaire, Director

Excused: Beth LaPensee, Secretary

Staff: Lou Komorowski; Barbra Krueger; Ashley Liford, Regina Manning, Jenn McCarty

A quorum being present, the Board proceeded to transact business. Chair Calder welcomed new board member, Dr. Rita Gordon.

2. Motion by Rob Peven, supported by Bernie Smith, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.
3. Motion by Rob Peven, supported by Bernie Smith, to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2022 meeting with one typo corrected. Motion carried.
4. Public Comment
Lou Komorowski welcomed the board to Ellis and introduced Circulation Manager, Jenn McCarty and Reference Librarian, Regina Manning. Lou then shared information about upcoming programs and partnerships at Ellis, and displayed the new arial photographs of the County, donated by the Monroe County Planning Department. Regina updated the board on our Biblioboard digital content project.
5. Board of Trustees Reorganization
Motion by Trustee Smith, supported by Trustee Gordon to postpone the election of officers until the full board is present. Motion carried.
6. Consent Agenda – Motion by Trustee Gordon, supported by Bernie Smith, to accept the items on the consent agenda including the financial reports as presented, and place on file. Motion carried.
7. Committee Reports
Finance Committee – Nancy Bellaire reported that our year-end financial report shows that we have received about 98.7% of our expected revenue, but this amount includes a December deposit that will actually count toward our 2023 revenues. As of December 31, we have spent about 87% of our planned expenditures for 2022.

Facilities Committee – No meeting.

Policy and Personnel Committee – No meeting.

Technology Committee – No meeting.

Woodlands Update – Woodlands has distributed yard signs with the wording, “MI Library is Now”, which will be displayed at each branch.

Legislative Update – Nancy Bellaire shared information about a Zoom update from ALA, called “The Right to Read in America”. She also shared that Michigan’s Library Legislative Day in Lansing will be held on Tuesday, April 25.

8. Unfinished Business – Motion by Rob Peven, supported by Rita Gordon, to appoint Bernie Smith to a one-year term on the MCLS Retiree Health Care Board. Motion carried.
9. New Business - Motion by Rita Gordon, supported by Rob Peven, to approve payment of the bills for the month ending December 31, 2022 in the amount of \$292,929.31. Motion carried.
Chair Calder requested that trustees e-mail her with requests for committee appointments.
10. Barbra Krueger welcomed Trustee Gordon to the board. She gave a brief update on Black History Month and Blues events scheduled for January 31-March 7. She shared information about a digital skills series that will soon be offered at the L.S. Navarre branch.
11. Nancy Bellaire updated the board on a Woodlands project that could provide a discount to local business or events. She also shared a small blueprint of the City of Monroe’s Father Cairns Park project. Located across from the Mary K. Daume Library Service Center, the park will feature pickle ball courts, tennis courts, a new playground featuring a splashpad for children, as well as a parking lot. Nancy also provided a lookahead to project that will launch later in 2023-a “Library of Things”, and equipment that can be used to live stream programs, podcasts, etc., that can be used by patrons and staff.
12. Board comments – The board thanked Lou, Regina, and Jenn for their hospitality and updates. They also welcomed Rita Gordon to the board. Rob Peven said how pleased he was to request a book that MCLS did not own, but we were able to get for him. Trustee Gordon thanked the board for the welcome and further introduced herself and described her background. She said that she was pleased to be part of a board that so clearly works to advocate for staff and for the public.
13. Public comment—none.
14. Announcements
Date of Next Board Meeting – Wednesday, March 8, @ 5 p.m. at the L.S. Navarre Branch Library, 1135 E. 2nd Street., Monroe, Michigan.

15. Adjournment

Motion by Bernie Smith, supported by Rita Gordon to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Peven, Vice-Chair

Catharine Calder, Chair