

**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 March 13, 2024, the meeting was called to order by Chair Calder at 5:05 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: Barbra Krueger; Lou Komorowski; Ashley Liford; Diana Martel; Lynn Parker; Stephanie Wintersteen

A quorum being present, the Board proceeded to transact business.

2. Motion by Rita Gordon, supported by Rob Peven, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.
3. Motion by Rob Peven, supported by Bernie Smith, to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.
4. Public Comment
Community Librarian Ashley Liford welcomed the board to Vivian and introduced Branch Technician, Diana Martel and Library Clerk, Lynn Parker. Diana then shared information about upcoming programs including movies, painting, crafts, and cooking with kids. She updated the board on the new picnic tables, birdfeeder, shed, and ceiling in the youth area.
5. Consent Agenda – Motion by Trustee Gordon, supported by Trustee Smith, to accept the items on the consent agenda including the financial reports as presented, and place on file. Motion carried.
6. Committee Reports
Finance Committee – Nancy Bellaire reported our February 29 financial report shows that we have received about 61.51% of our expected revenue, and we have spent about 17.66% of our planned expenditures with 16.7% of the year behind us. We received \$48,990 in penal fines in March. Our average for March is \$86,005.
Facilities Committee – No meeting. Nancy Bellaire pointed out the new LED lighting at Vivian.
Policy and Personnel Committee – Nancy Bellaire said that the draft policy for the Library of Things appears later on the agenda.

Technology Committee – No meeting.

Woodlands Update – The Woodlands Governing Board will meet later in the month.

Legislative Update – Nancy Bellaire updated the board on Michigan’s 2024 Library Legislative Day. As reported last month, the event will take place in Lansing on Tuesday, April 16. Nancy and Barbra will attend along with our bookmobile and bookmobile staff.

7. Unfinished Business – Motion by Bernie Smith, supported by Rob Peven, to table the reorganization of the MCLS Board of Trustees until next month when all members are present. Motion carried.

8. New Business - Motion by Bernie Smith, supported by Rob Peven, to approve payment of the bills for the month ending January 31, 2024, in the amount of \$404,892.05. Motion carried.
Motion by Rita Gordon, supported by Rob Peven, to approve the payment of bills for the month ending February 29, 2024, in the amount of \$416,935.18. Motion carried.
Motion by Bernie Smith, supported by Rita Gordon, to approve the Library Service Agreement with Erie Township. Motion carried.
Motion by Rita Gordon, supported by Bernie Smith, to approve the Library Service Agreement with Dundee Township. Motion carried.
Motion by Rob Peven, supported by Bernie Smith, to approve the Library of Things policy as proposed. Motion carried.
Motion by Bernie Smith, supported by Rita Gordon, to keep the spendable amount of the Mary Daume Scholarship Fund in the Monroe Community Foundation account as there were no qualified applicants this year.

9. Barbra Krueger and Stephanie Wintersteen gave a demonstration of MCLS’ new online event calendar. Barbra updated the board on the new community directory, formerly called the Yellow Pages, and invited them to the unveiling of the Ellis Story Walk, April 3, at 11 am. The Story Walk was funded by the Great Start Collaborative and will be maintained by MCLS staff.

10. Nancy Bellaire shared photos of the new playhouse at Navarre, a booklet on the history of African American music prepared by Rev. Robert Jones, and information about current partnerships with FEMA and the Monroe County Health Department. She also updated the board on new additions to the Library of Things, and invited all to the April 15th ribbon cutting for the Father Cairns Park, located across from the Daume building.

11. Board comments – Rita Gordon said that she was happy to see the playhouse and to hear about the microscope in the Library of Things. Bernie Smith said that she was happy to be at Vivian, and that she loves the new calendar. Rob Peven reported on a webinar on book challenges, offered for trustees by the Library of Michigan/MLA. Cathe Calder said that she loved Diana’s enthusiasm and is overwhelmed by the staff’s willingness to grow and provide great service to our patrons.

12. Public comment—none.
13. Announcements
Date of Next Board Meeting – Wednesday, April 10, @ 5 p.m. at the Bedford Branch Library, 8575 Jackman Road, Temperance, Michigan.
14. Adjournment
Motion by Rob Peven, supported by Rita Gordon, to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Peven, Vice-Chair

Catharine Calder, Chair