



**BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY MINUTES,  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 20, 2023**

Call to Order and Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order by President Jennifer Wheeler at 7:30 p.m.

Library Board present: Wendy Friedman, Frank Pisano, Melissa Mark, Karen Rock, Danielle Rumble, Jennifer Wheeler.

Absent and excused: None.

Library Staff present: Rebekah Craft, Director; Jaclyn Miller, Associate Director; Robert Stratton, Office Administrator.

Friends of the Library liaison present: Ryndee Carney

Contract community representatives present: Kathy Mechigian (Bingham Farms), Andrew Drummond (Beverly Hills)

Members of the public present: 6 (4 via Zoom; 2 in person).

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance following establishment of quorum.

Rumble read aloud the Library's Mission Statement.

1. General Public Comment Period:

Comment 1: Asked if bird-safe solution options were received from their colleague (Craft: Yes), and if there were any other updates (Craft: No). Mentioned that a friend went to Cuba with Lester Graham of Michigan Radio's Environment Report, and recommended the Board take notice of the annual Audubon bird survey.

2. Consent Agenda:

**Motion to approve the consent agenda.**

- A. Approval of October 16, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes**
- B. Approval of October 2023 vendor payments \$660,006.60, including payments in excess of \$75,000.**
- C. Approval of total expenses in the amount of \$903,412.31.**
- D. Motion to approve the 2024 Library calendar as found on pages 13-14 of the November 2023 Board Packet.**

**1st** Pisano  
**2nd** Rumble

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Friedman, Mark, Pisano, Rock, Rumble, Wheeler.

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Election of Officers for 2023-2024:

Wheeler called for nominations for the election of officers for 2023-2024.

**Motion to elect Karen Rock as President:**

1st Wheeler

2nd Mark

Yeas: Friedman, Mark, Pisano, Rock, Rumble, and Wheeler.

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

**Motion to elect Danielle Rumble as Vice President:**

1st Rock

2nd Mark

Yeas: Friedman, Mark, Pisano, Rock, Rumble, and Wheeler.

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

**Motion to elect Melissa Mark as Secretary:**

1st Rumble

2nd Pisano

Yeas: Friedman, Mark, Pisano, Rock, Rumble, and Wheeler.

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Board Reports and Special Announcements:

**President's report:** Rock welcomed Friedman to the Board.

**Board comments:** Mark and Craft sit on the City of Birmingham's ad hoc Aging in Place Committee. This Committee is releasing a community survey with the next round of water bills. Mark Clemence is the liaison for this survey, and will attend Winter Markt to speak with residents. Mark encourages everyone who receives the survey to complete and return it. The Library will host the ad hoc Aging in Place community meeting on December 13 at 6:00 p.m.

**Staff Anniversaries:** Rumble recognized the following staff anniversaries: Lindsay Block (1 year of service), Lauren Clifford (4 years), Susan Dion (18 years), Bart Gioia (16 years), Courtney Holland (2 years), Kanady Horn (1 year), Cheyenne Kennard (4 years), Morgan Kosciuk (4 years), Robert Stratton (4 years), and Michele Turner (1 year).

**Upcoming events of interest:** Miller reported upcoming events at the Library, full details of which are on pages 78-79 of the November Board packet.

5. Board Committee Reports

**Finance Committee:**

Rumble reported that the Finance Committee met on November 13. Present were Pisano, Rumble, Craft, and Miller. Full minutes from this meeting are on page 16 of the November Board packet. The next meeting of the Finance Committee will take place on Monday, December 11 at 4:00 p.m. in the Delos Board Room.

6. Library Report:

Craft and Miller presented highlights from the Library Report. Full details of this report are on pages 19-30 of the November Board packet. Staff reports from the MLA Annual Conference are on pages 28-29.

Pertaining to digitization of the *Birmingham Eccentric*, Pisano asked if librarians have looked into what other libraries are doing to bring costs down. A previous quote for digitization was \$60,000. Craft responded that BPL has put that project on hold due to the significant cost and because a volunteer at the Bloomfield Township Library has been working on digitizing the *Eccentric*.

## 7. Liaisons

Friends: Ryndee Carney reported the Friends Bookshop opened on November 1. The Friends will hold a book and media sale on December 9-10. Memberships are down by \$1000 from last year. The Friends will donate \$2,000 to the Library to purchase two trees for the new front terrace. Book and media donations are now accepted on any day or time during Library hours.

Beverly Hills: Andrew Drummond looks forward to working with the Board while he finishes previous liaison Mike White's term. He thanked staff for their participation in the Halloween Hoot. The Village of Beverly Hills is planning on expanding the event footprint next year.

Bloomfield Hills: There was no report.

Bingham Farms: Kathy Mechigian reported there is now a page for the Library on the Village of Bingham Farms website. Mechigian would like to work with Craft and Miller to add further information and events.

## 8. Phase 3: Renovation Update:

Craft provided a Phase 3 renovation update. On November 1, the center gallery opened. The Bookshop and new study rooms have received good reception. Carpentry changes and a sewer access point may affect the contingency budget. This week, roofing is being installed. Next week, the outdoor patio floor will be poured and planters will be installed. The budget is tracking well. The Building Committee will be recommending decisions about indoor tables and chairs.

## 9. New & Miscellaneous Business:

### **Discussion about Committee Appointments:**

Rumple will leave the Outreach Committee. Friedman will join the Outreach Committee. Pisano will join the Building Committee.

### **Public Call for Art:**

Craft's November 17 Memorandum and the Public Call for Art can be found on pages 72-76 of the November Board packet. The FF&E budget includes an allocation to purchase this art piece for \$12,000.

A member of the public recommended creating a protective clause for the result, in the event it is "horrifying." Craft read the following statement from the Public Call for Art: "The selected artist or artist team for the commission will collaborate with Library Board members and Library staff on final design..."

**Motion to approve the issuance of a public call for art, with an award amount of \$12,000, to be placed in the library's new café and collaboration space.**

**1st**                      Pisano  
**2nd**                      Wheeler

A voice vote was taken.

Yeas: Friedman, Pisano, Mark, Rock, Rumple, Wheeler.

Nays: None.  
Absent and excused: None.  
The motion was approved unanimously.

10. Unfinished Business: Pisano shared a copy of a DVD about birds, "The Messenger," recommended to him by a member of the public. Board members will pass it around for viewing.
11. Items Removed from Consent Agenda: None.
12. Information Only: See pages 77-122 of the November 2023 Board packet.
13. Adjournment:

**Motion to adjourn the meeting.**

**1st** Mark  
**2nd** Friedman

A voice vote was taken.  
Yeas: Friedman, Mark, Pisano, Rock, Rumble, Wheeler.  
Nays: None.  
Absent and excused: None.  
The motion was approved unanimously.

The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 18, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. in the Delos Board Room.

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Melissa Mark, Secretary

Date