



**BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY MINUTES,
REGULAR MEETING
January 22, 2025**

Call to Order and Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order by President Danielle Rumble at 7:30 p.m.

Library Board present: Wendy Friedman, Melissa Mark, Frank Pisano, Karen Rock, Danielle Rumble, Jennifer Wheeler, and Student Representative Kate Walter.

Absent and excused: None.

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

Friends of the Library liaison present: None.

Contract community representatives present: None.

Members of the public present: One.

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

Wheeler read aloud the Library's Mission Statement.

1. General Public Comment Period: None provided.

2. Consent Agenda:

Mark requested to remove Item D (Approval of Engagement Agreement with Anne M. Seuryneck, Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC) from the Consent Agenda.

Motion to approve the consent agenda.

A. Approval of December 16, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

B. Approval of December 2024 vendor payments in the amount of \$255,984.14, including payments in excess of \$75,000.

C. Approval of total expenses in the amount of \$370,743.05

1st Rock

2nd Wheeler

A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Discussion of Item D. Approval of Engagement Agreement with Anne M. Seuryneck, Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC: Craft reported the City of Birmingham has reviewed the 2009 Administrative Services contract. City attorney Mary Kukcharek will be writing a new contract, and the City will be increasing the cost of these services substantially. Craft wanted the Library to have their own representation in reviewing the contract. Since there is no formal contract to review, the Board decided to delay signing an engagement agreement. Once a new Administrative Services Contract is received, this issue may be brought up again in a future Board meeting.

Motion to pause on approval of the engagement agreement with Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC until a later date when we have a new contract from the City.

1st Pisano

2nd Mark

A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nays: Friedman.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved.

3. Board Reports and Special Announcements:

President's report: Rumble thanked the Chamber of Commerce, and noted the Chamber coffee reception to be held in the Library Atrium the following morning. Rumble shared the certificate received from Beyond Basics for the Library's support in their coat drive. Rumble thanked Kate Walter for her service as Student Representative. Rumble thanked the Birmingham Cable Board for awarding the library with a \$22,435 grant for a new website and virtual tour. Rumble thanked Library staff for agreeing for the Library to be an Oakland County warming shelter.

Board comments: Rock was impressed with the Birmingham-Bloomfield Eagle article about the Library of Things.

Staff Anniversaries: Mark recognized the following staff anniversaries: Jaclyn Miller (4 years of service), and Caroline Salucci (20 years).

Upcoming events of interest: Miller reported upcoming events at the Library, full details of which are on pages 40-41 of the January Board packet.

4. Board Committee Reports

Finance Committee:

Pisano reported that the Finance Committee met on January 13. Present were Pisano, Rumble, Craft, and Miller. Full minutes from this meeting are on page 18 of the January Board packet. The next meeting of the Finance Committee will take place on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the Delos Board Room.

Building Committee:

Friedman reported that the Building Committee met on January 13. Present were Friedman, Pisano, Craft, and Miller. Full minutes from this meeting are on pages 21 of the January Board packet. The next meeting of the Building Committee will take place on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in the Delos Board Room.

Outreach Committee:

Mark reported that the Outreach Committee met on January 21. Present were Friedman, Mark, Craft, and Miller. They reviewed a new trifold brochure draft, which will soon be finalized and sent to the printer. The CaRE (Community and Resource Engagement) Fair will be held on April 12, which will allow non-profit organizations to meet new local volunteers from the public. Invitations were sent to 25 organizations, hoping to involve 10-15 organizations in the fair. All Seasons delivery will continue, with Friedman and Mark delivering their books. A volunteer appreciation event was discussed, planned for April 4th, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the Library. The Birmingham Parade is on May 18. The Outreach Committee will meet next on March 4 at 11:00 a.m. in the Delos Board Room.

Policy Committee:

The Policy Committee will meet next on Tuesday, February 4 at 11:00 a.m. in the Delos Board Room. They will review 12 policies that have not been reviewed since last year.

5. Library Report:

Craft and Miller presented highlights from the Library Report. Full details of the complete report are on pages 23-32 of the January Board packet.

The Library of Michigan State Aid Survey will be submitted this week. Craft will present to City of Birmingham Long Range Planning on Saturday, January 25.

6. Liaisons

Friends: There was no report.

Beverly Hills: There was no report.

Bloomfield Hills: There was no report.

Bingham Farms: There was no report.

7. New & Miscellaneous Business:

Craft reviewed the proposed Library Welcome Statement memorandum, found on pages 36-37 of the January Board packet. This Welcome Statement received edits, and print-outs of the final version were supplied to Board Trustees prior to this meeting:

Here is the proposed Welcome Statement, with edits suggested by Karen Rock in red:

The Baldwin Public Library values the individual contributions of everyone who uses our library and recognizes that each person is an ~~a whole~~ individual with complex lives, feelings, and experiences. We are committed to creating an inclusive space that welcomes and respects all people. Through our diverse programming, expansive collection, and ongoing staff training, we strive to reflect and celebrate every person who uses our library.

Our staff members are dedicated to:

- Championing free and open access to information
- Eliminating racial and social equity barriers in library programs, services, policies and practices
- Ensuring that we are reaching and engaging everyone disenfranchised people in the community ~~and helping them express their voice~~
- ~~-Removing barriers to our library users in order to create a welcoming, accessible, and inclusive space~~

Pisano expressed discomfort and called for dismantling the [IDEA] Taskforce. He stated "there are serious flaws here", that it "causes division," and that large corporations and the US government are "getting away from" DEI programs. Pisano said, "To a certain group, this is a political statement." Pisano said he thinks the Library needs to change course and eliminate the IDEA Taskforce, and believes putting out this Welcome Statement will "cause problems". He specifically pointed to the statement "...and recognizes that each person is an individual with complex lives, feelings, and experiences." as problematic. Craft stated her dissatisfaction with the concept of eliminating the Idea Task Force as doing so would question her future with the organization.

Several Board members questioned why he thought this was political. Pisano replied "I just think it's political and it goes towards DEI, which everybody's getting away from because they're finding that it's racist towards other people, and it's.. and I don't think it's appropriate."

Wheeler commented that she did not feel that being a kind person and welcoming to everyone is political, and did not find the Welcome Statement to be inherently political. Pisano does not understand "why we have to have complex lives and feelings and experiences" In the statement, and does not support it.

Rock suggested removing "...and recognizes that each person is a whole individual with complex lives, feelings, and experiences."

Craft emphasized the importance of the IDEA Taskforce and its success since its implementation in representing the diverse patronage Baldwin has. She helped explain why diversity, inclusion, and equity are important values, and where the Library was prior to the implementation of the Taskforce.

A motion was made to revise the Welcome Statement by Rumble. A member of the public commented that they did not understand what this statement accomplished beyond "extra words."

Motion to replace the [antiracism statement] replace is with the Welcome Statement as follows:

The Baldwin Public Library values the individual contributions of everyone who uses our library ~~and recognizes that each person is an individual with complex lives, feelings, and experiences~~. We are committed to creating an inclusive space that welcomes and respects all people. Through our diverse programming, expansive collection, and ongoing staff training, we strive to reflect and celebrate every person who uses our library.

Our staff members are dedicated to:

- Championing free and open access to information
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1st Rumble

2nd Friedman

A voice vote was taken.

Yeas: Friedman, Rock, Wheeler.

Nays: Rumble, Pisano, Mark.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was not passed.

Motion to replace the [antiracism statement] and instead put the revised Welcome Statement (as follows), followed by the Mission, Vision, and Core Values that were adopted in 2022.

The Baldwin Public Library values the individual contributions of everyone who uses our library ~~and recognizes that each person is an individual with complex lives, feelings, and experiences~~. We are committed to creating an inclusive space that welcomes and respects all people. Through our diverse programming, expansive collection, and ongoing staff training, we strive to reflect and celebrate every person who uses our library.

1st Mark

2nd Wheeler

A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved.

8. Unfinished Business: None.

9. Items Removed from Consent Agenda: None.

10. Information Only: See pages 39-46 of the January Board packet.

11. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

1st Mark

2nd Pisano

A voice vote was taken.

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

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 24, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rotary & Donor Room.

Jennifer Wheeler, Secretary

Date