

## MUSKEGON AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

A meeting of the Muskegon Area District Library Board was held on Monday, April 18, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. at the Muskegon Area District Library, 4845 Airline Road, Muskegon. Staff present: B. Hall, M. Chandler, J. Dewald Jr., M. Higginbottom-Johnson, S. Rinsema-Sybenga, N. Schaner and A. Varela. Also present, M. Anderson, Legal Counsel. Members of the public in attendance: Jeff Martin, Dalton Township Supervisor, Karen Fowler, Dalton Township resident, and Kevin Richards.

D. Hughes called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

Present: Cruz, Aerts, Hodges, Hughes, Scolnik, Richards, \*Mansfield  
Excused: Arter

### Welcome and Swearing-In New Board Member: Kevin Richards

M. Anderson performed the swearing in for Kevin Richards and he signed the Oath of Office. The Board welcomed Mr. Richards to the MADL Board.

\*J. Mansfield arrived at 4:07 p.m.

### Approval of Agenda

#### **Motion by Hodges, Second by Cruz**

**That the agenda be approved as presented.**

**Motion Carried**

### Board Development

None.

### Consent Agenda

#### **Motion by Aerts, Second by Cruz**

**That the MADL Board approves the Consent Agenda Items 5.a. through 5.c.**

**Motion Carried**

### Vouchers

#### **Motion by Hodges, Second by Aerts**

**That the MADL Board approves the vouchers for March 2022.**

### **ROLL CALL**

**AYES: Aerts, Scolnik, Hodges, Hughes, Mansfield, Cruz, Richards**

**NAYS: None**

**Motion Carried**

### Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Minutes from April 12, 2022, were reviewed by the Board, which included review of the 2021 OPEB Rollover Report and discussion regarding salary and benefits for the Director position.

#### **Motion by Hodges, Second by Cruz**

**That the MADL Board approves the April 12, 2022, Finance Committee Minutes as presented.**

## Motion Carried

### Reports/Questions

B. Hall reported that a patron checked out materials on their library card and sold the materials to Game Stop. Game Stop contacted MADL to report the theft and a police report has been filed. The police report is currently with the County Prosecutor. MADL has banned this patron from the library indefinitely. D. Hughes questioned the status of the water issue at the Muskegon Heights Branch. B. Hall responded that she will contact the Muskegon Heights City Manager to discuss the problem.

M. Higginbottom-Johnson gave further details on the patron theft of video games. She reported about another incident at the Muskegon Heights Branch where a patron had overdosed, and paramedics were called on scene where they administered Narcan. She also stated that Storyville visits were 1,478 for the month of March – 316 at Montague, 30 at Muskegon Heights and 1,132 at Norton Shores.

J. Dewald Jr. introduced himself as the new Bookmobile Driver for MADL. He stated that Bookmobile services are being expanded to schools so MADL can get library cards in the hands of students. J. Dewald is excited to connect with patrons at his regular stops and continue building those relationships.

S. Rinsema-Sybenga informed the Board of the Story Trail project, which is a fun, educational activity that places the pages from a story book along a trail in a community. MADL's Story Trail is comprised of 17 permanent signs at Bethlehem Park in Muskegon Heights. The story will be changed out on a quarterly basis and the grand reveal will be the week of Juneteenth. She also explained the Humans of Muskegon Project. The outline of this project:

Our world is a rich tapestry of diversity—people, culture, backgrounds, experiences. Our world is also filled with misunderstandings among people which has created huge divisions. MADL believes that sharing our stories is a major step to heal these divisions. Listening to the story of “the other” binds us. Through storytelling, we become humans to each other. MADL is embarking on an initiative that will highlight the stories that are lesser told, through these activities:

- 1) Recruiting Muskegon County residents to participate in Human Library Events, in which people become the book that readers can "check out" through conversations, at multiple events throughout the year, at a variety of our branches.
- 2) Recruiting Muskegon County residents to participate in an Oral History Project that will record videos of individuals who possess lesser told stories which will then be uploaded onto an archived recorded video that will become archived oral history.
- 3) Partnering with Lakeshore Big Read to do a community read in the Fall, featuring the books “Circe” by Madeline Miller; “Spiderman: Miles Morales” by Jason Reynolds; and “Last Stop on Market Street” by Matthew de la Pena. The centering questions for all these books: “what is a hero?” and “what hero stories are/aren't told in your community”? Matthew de la Pena will speak in Muskegon on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

D. Hughes questioned what the Bow Wow Readers and Phone-A-Story programs are? A. Varela explained the Bow Wow program as a story-time where a therapy dog is brought in for kids to read to. M. Johnson described the Phone-A-Story service as a phone service that reads pre-recorded short stories, poems, or excerpts over the phone. Stories for both kids and adults are available and updated every Friday. The Phone-A-Story line can be reached at 231-685-0100. J. Hodges suggested that Board members volunteer to record some of these stories.

### Old Business

Branch Improvements – B. Hall stated that the wall at Holton Branch Library has been removed and the construction part of the project is complete including carpeting. Computers are currently being set-up and we are set to re-open to the public next week.

MADL Laketon Library Branch – B. Hall reported that the carpet has been installed and shelving units have been moved into the space.

Ravenna Storyville – D. Hughes stated that the committee is currently working on fundraising efforts with the hope of raising \$80,000 in donations as John Swanson plans to show the concept to potential donors. The original budget is \$186,000 for both the branch remodel and Storyville project. The goal is for \$80,000 of the \$186,000 to be funded by donations from local community members. Currently, MADL has received \$35,000 in donations for the project. The idea is for the project to continue moving forward while construction catches up with fundraising. K. Richards questioned which branches currently have a Storyville Village? A. Varela responded, Norton Shores, Montague, and Muskegon Heights.

Strategic Plan – B. Hall explained the Strategic Plan was provided for informational purposes as there has been no change to the mission/value statements. MADL will continue to report on the progress as strategies and goals are reached.

Director Search – D. Hughes outlined the process thus far as MADL hired a firm to help with the Director search. There were seventeen (17) applicants that were narrowed down to eight (8) for virtual interviews. The final four (4) candidates are scheduled for final in-person interviews this week. The board will discuss the compensation package before an offer is made.

#### New Business

B. Hall explained that the Accounting Report for year ending December 31, 2021, for the Retiree Health Care Plan (MERS RHFV) is used for the annual audit in compliance with GASB 74 and 75 requirements. The report states MADL continues to be well-funded and will not have to make any future contributions. There are currently six participants and once the last participant has left the plan, any remaining funds will be refunded to MADL.

#### **Motion by Aerts, Second by Richards**

**That the MADL Board accepts and places on file the OPEB Rollover Report for FY2021/GASB 74 and 75.**

#### **Motion Carried**

Unique Management Report – B. Hall explained that they help with material recovery by using a series of letters and phone calls to patrons to retrieve materials. MADL sees a 9:1 return rate using Unique services. Lakeland Library Cooperative (LLC) plans to keep the service for the next year at which point it will be re-evaluated as smaller library systems do not see as good of a return. The service is all or nothing for the LLC member libraries.

#### Public Comment

K. Fowler of Dalton Township stated that she had concerns about where Bookmobile was stopping as it seemed like the stops were not at visible locations. She would like to see it stop at high traffic areas, so the communities are aware of the service. She was pleasantly surprised to hear that the Bookmobile is currently reviewing and analyzing the route and that it is reaching so many students already. L. Aerts reiterated that Cedar Creek Township is currently working with Bookmobile Driver, J. Dewald Jr., to figure out the most visible spots in that area.

#### Board Comment

B. Scolnik questioned why the payment to the Muskegon Museum of Art Foundation was so high? He is concerned with the price per quarter. D. Hughes suggested that a representative from the Muskegon Arts & Culture Coalition (MAACC) organization be invited to a meeting to explain the value. B. Hall mentioned that MADL will provide the Board with additional information.

K. Richards introduced himself as a Literacy Coach with the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD) and is currently supporting the Orchard View (OV) School District. M. Chandler stated that she will send him the resumes included in the Director Search packet, so he is up to date on that process.

J. Hodges mentioned that Muskegon Township is hosting a machines event on July 9<sup>th</sup> at Renk America (formerly the L3 Communications building), and she would love to see the Bookmobile at the event.

Adjournment

**Motion by Hodges, Second by Mansfield/Cruz**

**That the MADL Board meeting adjourns at 4:55 p.m.**

**Motion Carried**

Reviewed and Approved by Jennifer Hodges, Treasurer.