

**DETROIT LIBRARY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MAY 16, 2023**

NOTED

The meeting was held in Main Library's Galleria. The meeting was also available for virtual viewing.

In the absence of a quorum, the Commissioners present resolved themselves into a Committee of the Whole.

President Hayden Friley called the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Detroit Library Commission to order at 1:57 p.m.

Present: President Hayden Friley, Commissioners Frierson-Haynes, Jackson

Excused: Commissioners Adams, Hicks, Peterson-Mayberry, Short

Administrative Staff: Mondowney, Brown, Dale, Funchess, Korenowsky, Moore, Norfolk, Powell, Simon, Williams

Present Also: Angeline Bellant, Russ Bellant, Cheryl Blessett, Maria Bryson, Enid Clark, MK Dominguez, Deborah Dorsey, Katie Dowgiewicz, DeAngela Goler, Alexis Griffin, Debra Henning, Elena Herrada, Deborah Madison, Tracy Massey, Vernadette McAllister, Carolyn Mosley, Daniel Patton, Christine Peele, Yvette Rice, Ralph Simpson, Shakir Smith, Cully Sommers, Megan Summers, Brian Vance

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES

Tabled until the June 20th Commission meeting due to lack of a quorum

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Minutes were approved at the June 20, 2023 Commission Meeting

Elana Herrada – She noted that Bowen Branch Library does have air conditioning. She said that the Coalition to Save DPL’s Bowen Branch and Monteith Branch will continue to fight to obtain funds earmarked for the Library but is being taken by the Downtown Development Authority.

Ralph Simpson – He said that he was an attorney concerned about the Bowen Branch being ADA compliant. The Library should have the minimal ADA standards. He said he would be consulting with experts regarding this matter.

Debra Henning – Expressed her concerns about DPL not participating in MeLCat, the statewide interlibrary loan program.

Mrs. Mondowney stated that DPL does participate in MeLCat and she would get the additional information for Ms. Henning.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DPSCD Let's Read Summer Program

Mrs. Mondowney reported that this summer, we will host the Detroit Public Schools Community District's *Let's Read* program. *Let's Read* recruits, trains, coordinates and supervises volunteer reading tutors who work with students in grades K-3. Beginning July 10, 2023, DPSCD anticipates that up to 100 tutors will meet with students at Library branches in half-hour sessions, once a week for six weeks. Staff will augment *Let's Read* services with activities for the students before and after their tutoring session, and special programs for parents and siblings while they wait.

Gro-Town Seed Stations

Mrs. Mondowney reported that the Gro-Town Seed Stations, which offer free seed packets, have returned to all Library branches. Each station includes 150-200 packets of vegetable, herb and flower seeds. CBS Detroit interviewed Gro-Town founder and our partner, Danielle Carlomusto, at the Jefferson Branch Library, for a segment that aired on April 20, 2023. In the words of Miss Danielle, Gro-Town seeks “to instill a sense of gratitude and wonderment for the world outside our windows.”

May & June 2023 Upcoming Events

Mrs. Mondowney reported the following:

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- The Elmwood Park Branch Library's Book Club will meet at 11 a.m., on Saturday, May 20th, to discuss *American Spy* by Lauren Wilkinson.
- On Sunday, May 21st, at 2 p.m., Dr. Kidada Williams, associate professor of history at Wayne State University, will discuss her latest book, *I Saw Death Coming: A History of Terror and Survival in the War Against Reconstruction*. Her book talk will be held at Main Library.
- The public is invited for an evening with PEN America Literary Award winner Dan Charnas and Khary Kimani Turner (author/executive director of the Coleman A. Young Foundation) in celebration of Detroit's own J Dilla aka James Yancy. They will be discussing Dan Charnas' book *Dilla Time: The Life and Afterlife of J Dilla, the Hip-Hop Producer Who Reinvented Rhythm*, a 2023 Michigan Notable Book. This conversation will be held at 6 p.m., on Tuesday, May 23rd at Main Library.
- At 6 p.m., on Wednesday, May 24th, the Jefferson Branch will host virtually, archivists from the Joan Meyers Jampel Center for Michigan Jewish Heritage, who will discuss the history of Detroit's Jewish population. You are invited to register for this program titled, "The First 100 Years of Jewish Detroit: 1850-1950," at the Library's website, detroitpubliclibrary.org.
- Children and families are invited to begin their summer by participating in "Family Game Night," at 5 p.m., on Wednesday, June 14th, at the Edison Branch Library.

African American Booklist/Detroit Free Press

Mrs. Mondowney reported that the 2023 African American Booklist titled "Beyond the Kitchen: The Culinary Legacy of African Americans," featured an interview with Detroit's Chef Phil Jones by Lyndsay C. Green, restaurant critic for the Detroit Free Press. On April 26th, the online edition of the Free Press reprinted the interview, included the Booklist cover, and noted that the Booklist was available at detroitpubliclibrary.org.

Mobile Library at Literary Event

Mrs. Mondowney reported that on Saturday, June 10, 2023, 12 Noon – 6 p.m., the Mobile Library staff will attend for the first time, the 5th Annual Detroit Hustle & Grind Urban Literary Convention, held on East Franklin Street in Detroit. The afternoon will feature 100 authors, publishers, screenwriters, audio producers and graphic designers.

Wayne County

Mrs. Mondowney reported that on April 21, 2023, the Library received a payment of **\$156,133.82** for delinquent property taxes.

Comerica Java and Jazz

Mrs. Mondowney reported that the 2023 Comerica Bank Java and Jazz Summer Series Minutes were approved at the June 20, 2023 Commission Meeting

is celebrating 21 years at the Main Library. The outdoor concerts will be held on the lawn facing Woodward and Kirby. The dates are as follows:

Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m.

- June 20 – Straight Ahead
- July 18 – Isis Damil
- August 15 – Sean Dobbins

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

Approval of the 2023 – 2024 Calendar of Library Closings and Schedule Changes

Tabled until the June 20th Commission meeting due to lack of a quorum

Approval of the Routine Human Resources Report

Tabled until the June 20th Commission meeting due to lack of a quorum

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Approval of the Burton Endowment Fund Financial Audit for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022

Tabled until the June 20th Commission meeting due to lack of a quorum

Approval of the Detroit Public Library Financial Audit for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022

Tabled until the June 20th Commission meeting due to lack of a quorum

COMMITTEE ON BUILDINGS

Minutes were approved at the June 20, 2023 Commission Meeting

Approval to Contract with Gabriel Industry (ServPro) for Concrete Replacement, Paint, and Seal at the Conely Branch Library

Tabled until the June 20th Commission meeting due to lack of a quorum

Approval to Contract with Gabriel Industry (ServPro) for Plaster Repairs and Painting on the First and Second Floors and the Children's Area in the East Wing at the Conely Branch Library.

Tabled until the June 20th Commission meeting due to lack of a quorum

Approval to Contract with Best Asphalt for Parking Lot Resurfacing at Main Library - The East Large Employee Lot, West Small Service Lot, Center Drive, and Both Wings

Tabled until the June 20th Commission meeting due to lack of a quorum

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Approval to Contract with Dell for the Lease of Dell Computers at the Detroit Public Library

Tabled until the June 20th Commission meeting due to lack of a quorum

Approval to Contract with AWE Acquisitions for the Lease of Early Learning Desktop Computers at the Detroit Public Library

Tabled until the June 20th Commission meeting due to lack of a quorum

Approval of the Routine Finance Report

Tabled until the June 20th Commission meeting due to lack of a quorum

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Antonio Brown, Chief Financial Officer, reported the following:

In June 2022, the Detroit Library Commission approved expanding the existing DPL Laptop to Go program to purchase additional laptops, Wi-Fi hotspots, and added support services for the program.

Contained in the agreement was a commitment of \$1.6 Million from the City of Detroit through the Department of Innovation and Technology to fund the expanded program using the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for three years. The library's

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administration completed all documents and applications required by the City of Detroit to receive these funds.

On February 20, 2023, I, along with Commission President Hayden-Friley, received an email from Adam Wolf, Associate Director for ARPA for the Department of Innovation and Technology at the City of Detroit stating, "the City Administration has determined the need to cancel the library lending initiative project that was started last year. The project is being cancelled due to timeliness requirements for ARPA funding expenditures and the project having stalled."

After receiving this correspondence, the library administration began reaching out to City administration to appeal the decision to rescind the funding. The library has already purchased equipment and implemented the expanded program. Our appeal was not honored. We are awaiting an official memo from the City of Detroit stipulating the cancellation of the funding opportunity.

At this point, the library administration is faced with a few options: one, seek an alternative funding source through applying for other grants with the philanthropic community, two, amend the FY2024 and FY2025 budget and fund the program using fund balance, or three, discontinue the program due to lack of funding. This is a valuable program to Detroit and Highland Park residents.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Jackson asked about the estimated cost to continue the program using fund balance.

Mr. Brown estimated the cost to be around \$700,000 over the next two-years including maintenance and service.

President Hayden Friley asked that a letter be drafted and addressed to the Detroit City Council and the Mayor of Detroit explaining how valuable this program is to the residents of Detroit.

Commissioner Jackson suggested continuing the program without the help from the City of Detroit.

President Hayden Friley said that the Detroit City Council and the Mayor of Detroit need to know that DPL did not stall the program and the projected funding for this program from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was rescinded.

NOTED

Commissioner Jackson offered to serve on the Committee on Buildings.

Minutes were approved at the June 20, 2023 Commission Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.