



**BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY MINUTES,  
REGULAR MEETING  
January 17, 2024**

Call to Order and Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Rock 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: Mark Lyles.

Contract community representatives present: None.

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

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

Mark read aloud the Library's Mission Statement.

1. General Public Comment Period:4

Comment 1: Asked for clarification on future fiscal year budget line items and asked when the budget hearing for the next fiscal year will be held.

2. Consent Agenda:

**Motion to approve the consent agenda.**

**A. Approval of December 18, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes**

**B. Approval of December 2023 vendor payments in the amount of \$485,438.56, including payments in excess of \$75,000.**

**C. Approval of total expenses in the amount of \$726,575.61**

**1st** Pisano

**2nd** Friedman

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. Board Reports and Special Announcements:

**President's report:** Rock shared a holiday card from MCD, stated that she liked the new undershelf lighting in the Friends' Bookshop, and thanked the on-site construction supervisor for saving the building from possible damage from frozen pipes over the weekend.

**Board comments:** None.

**Staff Anniversaries:** Rumble recognized the following staff anniversaries: Jaclyn Miller (3 years of service) and Caroline Salucci (19 years).

**Upcoming events of interest:** Miller reported upcoming events at the Library, full details of which are on pages 80-81 of the January Board packet.

4. Review of Design Concepts by Wendy Popko for Mural in Café

Popko shared three preliminary designs to the Board, all taking inspiration from the Rouge River. These designs are on pages 15-16 of the January Board packet. The Board discussed elements they preferred. The drafts are first digitally created, and the final work will be painted. Popko will match paint swatches to the digital format to preserve the intended color scheme. The Board generally preferred design #2.

**Motion to select design #2, with the following adjustments: to see a version in a rainbow palette and increased grass, and to have Wendy Popko move forward with creating the final design for the artwork, with Director Craft approving the final artwork design.**

**1st** Rumble  
**2nd** Wheeler

Public Comment:

1. Preferred design #2.
2. Noted that what you see up close might look different from far away and preferred a simpler design.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Board Committee Reports

**Outreach Committee:**

Mark reported that the Outreach Committee met on January 11. Present were Friedman, Mark, Craft, and Miller. Full minutes from this meeting are on page 23 of the January Board packet. Craft and Miller will be exploring future fundraising events in support of the Library. The next meeting of the Outreach Committee will take place on Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. in the Delos Board Room.

**Finance Committee:**

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will take place on Monday, February 12, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the Delos Board Room.

**Policy Committee:**

The next meeting of the Policy Committee will take place on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 1:00 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 25-39 of the January Board packet. Miller provided a 2023 Q4 Statistics Dashboard update. Mark noted database sessions were 56% higher in Q4 than Q3. Miller explained staff are working hard to promote database usage.

The Winter Reading Challenge through Beanstack is ongoing through January 31. New database resources include PressReader and ASL for Mango Languages. Several Gale resources and the Wall Street Journal were renewed. LinkedIn Learning and the subscription to the Oakland Press have been cancelled.

BPL continues to accept Aging in Place Community Surveys. The Birmingham Fire Department's Toys for Tots collection bin at the Library was successful, and they will continue to use the Library as a drop-off spot next year.

Craft will present "Baldwin's Future," found on pages 82-88 of the January Board packet, to the Long Range Planning Commission on Saturday, January 20.

Miller updated the Board on progress within the Strategic Plan 2022-2025. This report can be found on pages 33-39 of the January Board packet.

7. Liaisons

Friends: Mark Lyles reported the Friends donated \$21,600 to the Library. The Friends made \$1100 from used media sales in the last month. The Friends have scheduled used books sales for February 24, March 23, May 3-5, June 22, July 27, August 24, and October 25-27. The Friends will be starting a training program for new volunteers.

Beverly Hills: There was no report.

Bloomfield Hills: There was no report.

Bingham Farms: There was no report.

8. Phase 3: Renovation Update:

Craft provided a Phase 3 renovation update. Electrical and ceiling framing are being installed presently. Concrete was poured on December 15. A 1/16" thin steel trim will be used to separate the wall from limestone plaster, which was not originally described. Three steps will be redone by the concrete company for not meeting the project's standards. The Nanawall installation will be on January 22. Construction should finish at the end of March or in early April. Full details from the Phase 3 Renovation Update can be found on pages 41-49 of the January Board packet.

9. New & Miscellaneous Business:

**Library Trends Report:**

Craft had presented this report to staff during the last staff development day. The report can be found on pages 68-77 of the January Board packet.

10. Unfinished Business: None.

11. Items Removed from Consent Agenda: None.

12. Information Only: See pages 80-81 of the January Board packet.

13. Adjournment:

**Motion to adjourn the meeting.**

**1st** Rumble

**2nd** Pisano

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 9:29 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 26, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. in the Delos Board Room.

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Melissa Mark, Secretary

Date