

**Big Rapids Community Library - Library Board Meeting**  
Held in Community Room at the Big Rapids Community Library  
August 10, 2023

**1. Call to Order**

- The Library Board Meeting was called to order by Chelsea Mitchell at 5:30 pm.
- Board Members in attendance: Ralph Crew, Laura Herron, Sarah Lucas, Chelsea Mitchell, and Mike Ryan
- Board Members absent: Ralph Crew
- Library Staff in attendance: Lauren Perkins (Library Director) and Sarah Welch (Head of Programs and Services)

**2. Reading and Approval of June 2023 Meeting Minutes**

- The June 2023 Meeting Minutes were reviewed.
- Mike Ryan motioned to accept the June 2023 Meeting Minutes. Sarah Lucas supported. All members in favor. Minutes were accepted.

**3. Correspondence and Communication**

- Sue Smart from New Journey Clubhouse reached out about a possible employment program. Through their employment program, the library would hire a new staff member in a page position. The benefit of this program would be to reintroduce people with mental illness back into the workforce. The new hire and a staff member from the Clubhouse will be trained in the position that way if the new hire is unable to work a shift the Clubhouse staff member will work the shift. The library would be responsible for paying the new hire.
- Green Township Ballot language
  - This will be discussed during Old/Unfinished Business

**4. Public Comment**

- none

**5. Financial Report**

- Lauren Herron motioned to accept the Financial Report. Sarah Lucas supported. All members in favor. The Financial Report was accepted.

**6. Report of the Library Director**

- Updated Branding and re-launch of Michigan Activity Pass. MAP is a statewide collaborative program between Michigan's public libraries and participating partner destinations. MAP provides Michigan's library cardholders the opportunity to discover and learn more about participating cultural destinations, parks, campgrounds, and recreation areas in the state at a discounted rate.
- The first outdoor movie had to be canceled due to threatening weather.
- New Library Assistant Jean LaLonde was hired.

- Acquired Tonies™ - paid for by Friends of the Library, VOX™ books, from the Library of Michigan and IMLA, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Creativebug™ database.
- Over 350 people attended the program with John Ball Zoo on August 3rd, and we learned about cockroaches, tenrecs, wood turtles, and black rat snakes. Many new families were introduced to the playground and the library.
- Gabriel Chapman and the Scouts re-built the Community Garden for his Eagle Scout project which was funded by the fundraising efforts of the GFWC. Flowers were donated by LeeAnn's and planted.
- Staff Howard Botma hosted Stage-M performers from Cinderella at Storytime which was publicized in the Pioneer.
- Science Adventure Kits are available for checkout in the following: Observing Pollinators, Architecture, and Solar System.
- Naloxone is in demand, and we will have our second refill of the box in August.
- Thank you to Trustee Chelsea Mitchell for running the Cotton Candy station at the Summer Reading Kickoff Party.
- Summer Reading Program registrations increased over previous years: 409 registrants, 25.8% increase over last year's 325.
- The library will be closed on Labor Day Weekend.
- Upcoming Programs:
  - PaleoJoe, August 10 at 11:00 am
  - Summer Play & Learn in the Park Mecosta-Osceola Summer Playgroups 10:00 - 11:00 am through August 25
  - Ribbon-cutting for Playground August 18, 10:00 - 12:00 pm - Please attend, if possible
  - Movies in the Park - The Bad Guys - August 18

## **7. Old/Unfinished Business**

- Discussion of Green Township ballot language
  - The library asked for 3/10 millage which could be 2/10 with penal fines from the townships. Green Charter Township Board wishes to split the millage with the Big Rapids Community Library and the Reed City Area District Library.
  - If the millage is approved on the November ballot the library will need to negotiate with the township.
  - The library would still need a contract with the township.

## **8. New Business**

- Short Takes for Trustees: Advocacy and Communications
- Overview of Creativebug

- Annual renewal includes performance rights.
- Overview of VOX books, Tonies, SAKs (Science Adventure Kits)
- Discussion of Brand Positioning and Design Direction

**9. Unscheduled Business**

- none

**10. Public Comment**

- none

**11. Next Meeting**

- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 14 at 5:30 pm.

**12. Adjournment**

- Chelsea Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm.