

**LAKELAND LIBRARY COOPERATIVE  
OFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES  
Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.  
Kent District Library Service Center**

Present: Joe Zappacosta, John McNaughton, Dale Parus, Lance Werner, Shirley Bruursema, Maggie McKeithan, Ron Suszek

Staff Present: Carol Dawe, Amber McLain

Absent: Karen McKinnon, Diane Kooiker

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Lance Werner.
- 2) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Ron Suszek moved, supported by Meggie McKeithan, to approve the agenda as presented - *motion carried*.
- 3) **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS:** There were no questions from members.
- 4) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.
- 5) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Maggie McKeithan moved, supported by John McNaughton, to approve the board minutes from October 12, 2022 with one correction— *motion carried*.
- 6) **FINANCIAL REPORT:**
  - a) October Financials and Check Register: John McNaughton moved, supported by Shirley Bruursema, to approve the October Financials as presented - *motion carried*.
- 7) **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Lance Werner made a statement in regard to the situation at Patmos library – Lakeland is waiting for direction from their board before releasing a statement. Lance also congratulated/consoled libraries based on their millage results.
- 8) **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** In addition to the written report provided in the meeting packet, Carol Dawe pointed out that the MCDA is preparing to host a program on misinformation with a speaker from the University of Michigan. Carol also reiterated that Sheryl VanderWagen is retiring next year (please see ILS manager report for more information) and urged members to complete large-scale ILS projects before June. Carol also issued a reminder that Nonresident Cards are a library-by-library decision.
- 9) **COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS**
  - a) Advisory council minutes for September 8, 2022 are included in the meeting packet for informational purposes.
- 10) **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - a) *Millages:* Shirley Bruursema won 3 of 3 millages.
  - b) *Strategic Planning Update:* There will be a meeting on November 14, 2022 to look at the plan and consider next steps.
  - c) *Intellectual Freedom:* From Lance Werner – The book-banning movement has escalated recently largely because it was used to energize a voting block for the November election. Lance contends that we may see a decrease as it has been proven to be an unfruitful political agenda; Lance also suggests role-playing on all levels of staff and officials; Lance also urges people to remember mental health in all of this; From Carol Dawe – the closing keynote speaker at MLA demonstrated how many people have dealt with intellectual freedom challenges.
- 11) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**
  - a) Merri Jo Tuinstra shared that she is so thankful for Sheryl VanderWagen and everything she does for Lakeland.
- 12) **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**
  - a) Joe Zappacosta shared that he is very excited to be on the board. He has been at Hackley for 4 years and looks forward to learning from this new role.
  - b) Dale Parus shared that Ionia lost its millage once again.
  - c) Shirley Bruursema gave her condolences to those who lost millages.
  - d) Maggie McKeithan shared that OS is kicking off a capital campaign to fundraise for updating facilities.

- e) Ron Suszek shared that MADL installed a tovertofel.
- 13)** John McNaughton considering going out and doing more engagement with nontraditional areas of the population.
- 14)** Lance Werner shared that he has been doing training regarding book banning and intellectual freedom via Zoom and is willing to provide that to Lakeland Libraries as well.
- 15) NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. at Kent District Library Service Center.
- 16) ADJOURNMENT:** John McNaughton moved, supported by Dale Parus, to adjourn at 9:55 a.m. - *motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted by,  
Amber McLain