

Hamtramck Public Library
Library Board
2360 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck, MI 48212
Minutes from January 13, 2022

Board Members present at the meeting: George Gorday, Sandra Jabril, Jerzy Dabrowski (by proxy), Kathy Kristy and E. Tamara Sochacka (via zoom).

Absent: Raymond Bittner (excused)

The meeting was opened at 6:00 PM. All participants had an opportunity to pick up the report prior to the meeting.

As first order of business - agenda was adopted on a **motion by Mr. Gorday**, seconded by Ms. Kristy passed.

Minutes from December 16, 2021 meeting were read and adopted, on a **motion by Mr. Gorday**, seconded by Ms. Kristy, passed.

Financial reports were discussed and adopted on a **motion by Ms. Kristy**, seconded by Mr. Gorday, passed.

Ms. Kristy made a motion to approve the invoice listing for last month, seconded by Mr. Gorday, passed.

Under old business, the following were discussed:

Update on the Library staff

Activities of the Friends of the Library

Update of charges for the energy cost reduction program, that were not approved by the Library Board but imposed on the library by the city despite objections, were noted as follows:

1. January electric bill \$633.83 - Cost savings additional charge of \$409.66 increased the cost of energy by 65% - instead of cost savings
2. February electric bill \$662.48 - Cost savings additional charge of \$409.66 increased the cost of energy by 62% - instead of cost savings
3. March electric bill \$677.50 - Cost savings additional charge of \$409.66 increased the cost of energy by 61% - instead of cost savings
4. April electric bill \$587.36 - Cost savings additional charge of \$409.66 increased the cost of energy by 70% - instead of cost savings
5. May electric bill \$657.46 - Cost savings additional charge of \$409.66 increased the cost of energy by 62% - instead of cost savings
6. June electric bill \$837.75 - Cost savings additional charge of \$409.66 increased the cost of energy by 49% - instead of cost savings

7. July electric bill \$1268.41 - Cost savings additional charge of \$406.66 increased the cost of energy by 32% - instead of cost savings
8. August electric bill \$1318.81 - Cost saving additional charge of \$409.66 increased the cost of energy by 31% - instead of cost savings
9. September electric bill \$1093.09 - Cost savings additional charge of \$409.66 increased the cost of energy by 37% - instead of cost Savings
10. October electric bill \$813.12 - Cost savings additional charge of \$409.66 increased the cost of energy by 50% - instead of cost savings
11. November electric bill \$746.94 - Cost savings additional charge of \$819.32 increased the cost of energy by 110% - instead of cost savings

Under new business the following were discussed:

Future programs

Director's report

End of the Zoom meetings for the Library Board members

Report on funds illegally diverted from the Library Fund to fund other city departments. At the end of December, monies withdrawn illegally from the library between June 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021 exceeded \$70,000.00

Third letter sent to the City Controller asking for a meeting to discuss illegal withdrawals from the Library Fund by the City Administration. The Library Board recommended to contact City Manager next, and set up a meeting between the Library Board and City Administration to discuss the issue - motion by Mr. Gorday, seconded by Ms. Kristy, passed.

Comparison of bids for outside security system for the library - funded by the Federal ARPA grant money (reimbursement after presentation of paid invoice). The Library Board recommended using the M.I. Security lower price system with a back up recording device - motion by Mr. Gorday, seconded by Ms. Kristy, passed.

Library Board was informed that the library film production department has filmed and produced a movie from the inauguration of city government (January 2, 2022). Also separate short films of oath of office taken by newly elected officials were produced and posted on the library website and You Tube.

Statistics on the library users for the month of December were provided to the Library Board.

A discussion developed regarding the library requests that should be presented to the City Administration. These requests were based on the information provided by the State of Michigan Legal Counsel for Library Law. The intention of the requests is to bring the City Administration into compliance with the Laws of the State of Michigan. A motion was made to present these requests to the City. Motion made by Ms. Kristy and seconded by Mr. Gorday, passed.

The Library Director informed the Board regarding a major purchase of new books for children from Cherry Lake Publishing.

Library Board was informed of a failure of sub pump in the library basement. Since there is no gravity based drainage in the library basement due to depth, the drains from the boilers rely on the sub pump to prevent flooding. The sub pump was activated by adjusting the water level switch, however due to its age, it will need to be replaced soon, since from now on, wear and tear over the last 15 years of its life, had made it unreliable. The Board authorized replacement of the sub pump on a motion by Mr. Gorday, seconded by Ms. Kristy, passed.

The Library Board was informed that during the month of December 2021, the City Administration, instead of the Board approved \$1,000.00 fee for accounting service made two unauthorized withdrawals of \$5,666.66 (total of \$11,333.32) as accounting fee for preparing two payrolls for seven employees (total of the two payrolls amounted to \$15,430.54) and printing 14 checks to pay for invoices presented. The fees constitute 73% of total payrolls for the month.

City also charged the library twice for the (unauthorized by the Board) Energy Cost Savings Program (\$409.66 withdrawn twice for the total of \$819.32) which exceeds the DTE electric bill by 110% (use of electricity for November amounted to \$746.94).

City also withdrew three times the payment for library column printed in the Hamtramck Review (payment of \$90.00 per month total withdrawal to pay this bill was \$270.00).

These mistakes in the city accounting were pointed out in detail to the City Controller, but no corrective action followed.

Library Director informed the Board that there is a group visiting the libraries conducting so called "audits". After discussion of that activity, the recommendation was to let them walk around and film so long as they do not disrupt library operations or create a problem for other patrons using the library.

The Library Board was also informed that we are in process of evaluating a new order from Notable Books to update the collection and provide our patrons with new publications that are in demand.

The next meeting of the Library Board was set for Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Meeting was adjourned at 7:00.p.m. on **a motion by Mr. Gorday**, seconded by Ms. Kristy, passed.

Minutes taken by Gregory Kirchner