

**Hamtramck Public Library**  
**Library Board**  
**2360 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck, MI 48212**  
**Minutes from September 14, 2023**

**Board Members present at the meeting:** Raymond Bittner, George Gorday, Kathy Kristy (on Zoom), Sandra Jabril (on Zoom), Jerzy Dabrowski (by proxy) and Tamara Sochacka. State Law allows library boards to continue to meet on Zoom.

**Absent:** None

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

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

Minutes from July 13, 2023, meeting were read and adopted, on a **motion by Mr. Gorday**, seconded by Mr. Bittner, passed.

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

Under the old business:

An update was made regarding the library staff. Interviews have been held with applicants for the library aide position.

The activities of the Friends of the Library have been discussed.

Progress on separating the library from the city accounting is on hold. The meeting scheduled for June had been postponed until further notice.

City and the Library Board agreed in May, that there will be no charge for accounting services, provided by city to the library. However, in June the monthly accounting fees have been imposed retroactively going back to July 2022.

When Mr. Garbarino was asked why \$12,000.00 was removed from the library's money held by the city, he sent a email to city's finance director with an inquiry. In response the finance director stated that it was his decision to take the library's money without informing Mr. Garbarino.

This issue was discussed again during the meeting between the city and the library board on September 21, 2023. During the meeting Mr. Garbarino stated that he misspoke when he said that the city would provide accounting services at no charge, and his intention was to charge the library the amount that was originally budgeted. He did

not explain why the money was taken without informing and getting approval of the library board prior to helping themselves to the library's money.

Mr. Bittner responded that this is the reason the board wants to have complete control over the library's money, so we will not find out after the fact that someone else has helped themselves to money that only library board is authorized to spend.

The library board was informed of the progress of the installation of the new air conditioning system. We have not been able to get the old system working, even temporarily, however asbestos has been removed from the air conditioning lines and measurements for building a new heat exchanger have been taken.

After the critical parts for the system are build (off site), they will take apart the current system and start building around the manufactured parts. All parts for our system have to be custom built.

Under the new business

Statistics of library use have been presented.

The director presented activity report for the past two months.

A report was made of the Summer Reading programs for children.

Arrangements were made for the ESL classes for the 2023-24 school year.

The library has produced movies from the Labor Day Parade, Hamtramck Public Schools Family Fun Fair and a Housing Commission social for kids organized by the Piast Institute.

Discussion followed about replacing aging computers used by the library staff and public. Machines in line for replacement are between 8 to 13 years old and have been functioning by taking parts from some computers and installing them in others. Library computers are "on" for 8 hours per day, 5 days per week (about 2000 hours a year, rated for 3 years of service). Also two printers, one B&W and one color, have reached end of life and need to be replaced. The board voted to budget \$10k for that equipment on a motion by Mr. Gorday, seconded by Mr. Bittner, passed.

A letter from one of the patrons was read expressing appreciation for the summer reading programs held in the library over the summer months.

Checks from the state aid and Wayne County penal fines have been deposited directly to the Library Fund at PNC bank.

The library has received a lab report after testing for asbestos fibers in the

basement, where air conditioning pipes have been insulated.

The furnace boilers have been inspected, cleaned, sensors replaced, and burned-out burn places have been replaced.

The rusted out hot air exhaust pipes have been replaced to prevent leaks of carbon dioxide in the library proper area.

We have received bids for the replacement of hot water expansion tank (low \$1,600 and high \$2,600)

The next meeting was set for October 12, 2023. Meeting was adjourned at 7 pm on a motion made by Mr. Gorday, seconded by Mr. Bittner.

Minutes taken by  
Gregory Kirchner  
Executive Assistant to the Library Board.