

**Hamtramck Public Library
Library Board
2360 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck, MI 48212
Minutes from June 12, 2025**

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

Absent: None: Sandra Jabril

The meeting was opened at 6:00 PM. All participants had an opportunity to pick up the reports prior to the meeting or download the report from email sent to every member of the board.

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

May 22, 2025, meeting minutes were read and adopted on a motion by Mr. Gorday, seconded by Ms. Kristy, passed.

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

Under the old business:

An update was presented regarding the library staff.

Activities of Friends of the library were discussed.

Report on the progress of the Penal Fines from Wayne County

Renewal of the current CD at the PNC bank was done on May 15, 2025

Under new business:

Library Director presented monthly report of library programs.

Library user statistics for the past month were presented.

The Board was informed that the Janowicz grant was negotiated successfully, and transfer of funds was completed in the amount of 110k.

The Board was informed that the negotiations with Wayne County regarding the

underpayment of Penal Fines were finished and the library agreed to accept 65k payment to compensate for underpayments over the last several years.

A discussion developed to establish a position of Library Administrator and establish compensation rate for that rank. The job would combine duties of executive assistant to the library board, handle management and all operations of the library, public relations skills, and general management of documentary film productions of historic events and Hamtramck Public TV-19. It requires 24/7 availability and on average sixty hours per week (including evenings, Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays)

A candidate for that position has several years of library management experience, as well as advisory experience with the library board, experience in public relations, years of experience with movie productions and three years of management of TV broadcasting systems. Also, the candidate is willing and able to work the hours necessary to do the job.

Ms. Kristy asked to Board to delay that decision for 10 to 14 days, so she would have a chance to do her research. The Board president set a date for a special meeting to be held on June 26th to make a final decision on the issue.

Ms. Kristy also added that she would like to be appointed to that position for lower compensation but would be willing to work only 25 to 30 hours per week. She also admitted she had no experience in any of the duties to be performed and would need couple of years to learn the job requirements.

She also stressed that her motive to vote herself for that position is to save the library money. There was no explanation who would handle additional hours of work that position requires and how much that would cost.

The board agreed to table this issue until the special meeting to be held on Thursday, June 26, 2025, as requested by Ms. Kristy.

The Library Directors also informed the Board that she would like to retire from the full-time position effective end of day on August 1, 2025. She agreed to serve as an uncompensated Library Director Emeritus for as long as it takes to hire and train another librarian able to take on those responsibilities. Since the Library Administrator contract would not start under August 4, 2025, there would be no difference in library budget for the fiscal year of 2025-26.

Hiring of another librarian has been discussed for few months now, and the budget includes the cost of anticipated hiring.

Discussion developed regarding new circulation desk. The library staff working that area has not found any replacement for the current system. It is customary for libraries to have that type of furniture build to fit the architecture and space of a particular facility. Since this is not a priority issue, it might take a while to develop ideas and find suitable designs for our building.

The library hosted a candidate forum for the Mayoral and Council Candidates for the 2025. The event was recorded for Hamtramck Public TV and is available for viewing to the general public.

The Summer Reading Program was presented to the Board. It continues during the months of June, July and August with Party and Prizes given to books read. The last part of the program will be a Youth Jazz Concert in September.

Under Public Comments: There was no participation of the public.

Motion to adjourn made Ms. Kristy, seconded by Mr. Gorday, passed at 7:00 pm.

Minutes taken by
Gregory Kirchner
Executive Assistant to the Library Board