

**Flint District Library**  
**April 7, 2022 Regular Board Meeting**  
**Flint Institute of Arts**  
**Sheppy Dog Room**  
**5:30 pm**

**Present:** Heather Kale, Brian Larkin, Vivian Kao, Kathy Jackson, Reta Stanley, Audrey Young-Muhammad

**Absent without notification:** Dean Yeotis

**Staff:** Kay Schwartz, Connie Palmer, Leslie Acevedo, Ashoka Rao, Julie McCullough, Rick Dunning, Wanda Harden

**Members of Public:** Norman Bryant, E. Hill DeLoney, Elizabeth Taylor, Claire McClinton, and others

**Call to Order:** President Stanley called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

**Approval of Agenda:** Brian Larkin made a motion to approve the agenda. Vivian Kao supported. Motion carried.

**Call to Public:** Four members of the public (Norman Bryant, Elizabeth Taylor, E. Hill DeLoney, and Claire McClinton) spoke on behalf of “The Gloria Coles Initiative,” which is a recommendation by community members that the Flint Public Library be renamed “The Gloria Coles Flint Public Library.” They again spoke in favor of this initiative and recounted Ms. Coles many accomplishments during her time as Library Director.

Discussion ensued. Stanley asked for clarification from the initiative group regarding the renaming: Are you asking to rename the entire library system or the building? Larkin noted the distinction of the official organizational name “Flint Public Library” vs. naming the physical building in honor of Ms. Coles. The group’s responses varied.

**Approval of 3/3/22 Regular Meeting Minutes:** Heather Kale made a motion to approve the minutes with the location corrected from *Ferris Wheel Board Room* to *Flint Ferris Wheel*. Audrey Young-Muhammad supported. Motion carried.

**Approval of 3/28/22 Committee Meeting Minutes:** Larkin made a motion to approve the Committee Meeting minutes. Young-Muhammad supported. Motion carried.

**Finance, Budget, and Policy Committee**

**Review of Financial Statements for Month ending 2/28/22:** Connie Palmer made a brief presentation to the Board, noting that 66.58% of the fiscal year is complete. Property taxes received to date are \$2,564,911.40. To date we have used 62.26% of total expenditures. We have \$6,317,427.79 in unrestricted cash less current liabilities of \$329,059.44. Net cash available for operations is \$5,988,368.35. We have unrestricted cash to cover 20.4 months of operations. Larkin made a motion to approve the statements as presented. Kao supported. Motion carried.

Updates from Board Committees

**Building Reno Committee:** Palmer shared that we are getting close to completion. Interior signage is in process and we are within two weeks of getting our permanent Certificate of Occupancy. The remaining furniture is slated to arrive next week and we are actively working through our punch list with the architects.

Schwartz noted that the grand opening is just six weeks away. There is a big push needed to finish, but we are confident that we can be ready for it.

**Fundraising & PR Committee:** The campaign total with pledges to date is \$103,207.49. Plans continue for the 2022 Learn for Life breakfast event which will be held on Monday, June 6 here at FPL. We are in need of table hosts and our success truly relies on them. Please consider becoming a host or help us to recruit one.

**Ad-Hoc Committee:** Larkin made a motion that the Board go through the process of naming the library building in honor of Gloria Coles. Kathy Jackson supported. Discussion ensued.

Kao asked that the Board should consider having a conversation about naming library buildings after individuals in general.

Kale remarked that it may be worthwhile to have our attorney weigh in on this request.

Stanley asked the representatives of the Gloria Coles Initiative “Is our motion correct? Is it the building name or the institution?”

DeLoney stated that they want *to add to* the name of the *building library* to be *changed to* the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library to honor Ms. Coles. Taylor spoke and said that her own request is to “rename the library, not the building, as it carries and no matter where it goes.”

Larkin asked for clarification and stated that he is hearing multiple things from the individuals representing this initiative. There is a difference between the building and the legal entity that is the library.

Stanley expressed that the Ad-Hoc Committee, at the time they met, didn’t fully understand the original renaming request from the initiative group. She suggested the Board should rescind the motion and schedule another meeting of the committee. The Board would also need the renaming request in writing to clarify what is being asked. Discussion ensued.

Larkin made a motion to rescind the previous motion. Kale supported. Motion carried, with Jackson abstaining.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**President’s Remarks:** Stanley shared that she received her grand opening invitation in today’s mail, and thanked those in attendance for tonight’s enlightening discussion.

**Director's Remarks:** None.

**Upcoming Activities:** Leslie Acevedo briefly shared details of plans for the 5/19 grand opening day and information about the summer reading program which will begin on Saturday, June 18.

**Adjournment:** Kale made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Larkin supported. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:15 pm.

  
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Vivian Kao, Secretary