

Ypsilanti District Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes, April 16, 2025 (Unapproved)

CALL TO ORDER

President Bethany Kennedy called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Trustees Present: Kristy Cooper, Bethany Kennedy, Theresa M. Madix, Brian Steimel, and Jean Winborn formed a quorum. Trustees Patricia Horne McGee and Chris Tebbens were absent.

Also present: Director Lisa Hoenig, Assistant Director Julianne Smith, Business Office Manager Andrew Hamilton, Community Relations Coordinator Sam Killian, as well as Michigan Avenue Branch manager Katie Dover-Taylor.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Trustee Maddix motioned to add a document for the Board to consider as New Business D. Trustee Maddix moved to approve the agenda as amended and Trustee Cooper supported this motion.

Vote: Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Motion: Passed
Absent: 2

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

WELCOMING REMARKS

Michigan Avenue Branch Manager Katie Dover-Taylor addressed the group with a warm welcome to the newly reopened facilities. She provided an overview of the events and emotions surrounding the reopening among the community, patrons and staff. She also thanked the Board for their support, hard work, and leadership to make the reopened facility a reality.

PRESENTATION OF 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Community Relations Coordinator Sam Killian began his presentation with several anecdotes regarding the reopening of Michigan Avenue. He then segued into an overview of the 2024 Annual Report which focused on the repair and renovation of Michigan Avenue while highlighting the many accomplishments achieved despite the difficulties amid the closure of the branch. He pointed out some of the improvements to specific areas at both Superior and Whittaker locations as well as strategic initiatives accomplished in the year. He also addressed the strengthening of grants, donations and strategic partnerships that allowed the library to expand a number of services and programs that impact the community. Next, he provided an overview of some of the many letters and social media posts of support and appreciation from the community. Finally, he closed with some percentages and statistics regarding library use, as well as a financial report for the year.

CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Winborn moved to approve consent agenda (March 26, 2025 Regular meeting minutes and March 2025 Financials and Check Registers). Trustee Maddix supported this motion.

Vote: Ayes: 5

Ypsilanti District Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes, April 16, 2025 (Unapproved)

Nays: 0
Motion: Passed
Absent: 2

COMMUNICATION

Director Hoenig first highlighted the notification from YpsiWrites regarding “A Great Day in Ypsi” with a photo opportunity for writers of all ages happening at Michigan Avenue from 1-3 p.m. on May 3, 2025. She also touched upon the Washtenaw County Community Mental Health news release that lists the grants issued to non-profits, including the one issued to the library for the social work initiative supporting case management and programming to serve some of Ypsilanti’s most vulnerable populations. She also mentioned the blog from Senior Resource Connect called the Spotlight which focused on the Outreach Department and bookmobile led by Monica Porter. Director Hoenig ended this section by pointing out an article that discusses how the recent spate of funding cuts is impacting projects and grants, including some indirectly affecting YDL.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities – Director Hoenig spoke about the anticipated completion of “the river” at the Michigan Avenue Library Plaza scheduled for completion this Friday, April 18th. She also advised that the new hot water recirculation pump at Michigan Avenue has been installed and is working correctly, with just a few small finishing tasks to be completed this week by the contractor.

Michigan Avenue Building – Director Hoenig let the Board know the most recent construction meeting was cancelled due to illnesses with the contractors and architect, but that the final completion schedule for the vestibule will be determined soon. The remaining punch list items will be completed in the next couple of weeks. The vestibule may take longer, but the facility will remain open during that time.

Personnel – Trustee Steimel deferred this to New Business C.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Director Hoenig advised the Board that the library is planning an Open House at Michigan Avenue the first Friday in June, when the City of Ypsilanti holds their First Friday events. The building would stay open past normal operating hours to accommodate this. The following morning is the Summer Challenge Kick-Off, which will also be held at Michigan Avenue and has some additional opening events planned. She also asked if the Board would be interested in a ribbon cutting to celebrate the re-opening on June 6th. Director Hoenig let the Board know about a recent grant awarded from the Ann Arbor Rotary Club to fully fund a program that will support reading initiatives at the Michigan Avenue branch from June 2025 to February 2026. She also briefly spoke about the Summer of HeART, which is also fully funded now, and how this program originally was just at the Superior branch but now will also be at the Michigan Avenue branch.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution honoring Mary Garboden

Ypsilanti District Library
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YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-11

April 16, 2025

RESOLUTION TO HONOR AND THANK MARY GARBODEN
FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

WHEREAS, Mary Garboden has served the Ypsilanti District Library for seventeen years as an exceptional librarian and department head, and

WHEREAS, Mary successfully led the YDL Outreach Department from January 2008 through September 2022, coordinating the services of the bookmobile and the original Superior branch, as well as many other library outreach activities, and

WHEREAS, Mary built a valuable network of area social service agencies, government officials, educators, and library supporters to improve and promote library services to all residents, and

WHEREAS, Mary was instrumental in planning the new YDL-Superior building, from the capital campaign to its groundbreaking through completion, and

WHEREAS, she was named its Branch Manager when it opened in 2022, brilliantly planning a hand-to-hand Book Brigade to excite and engage the community, and

WHEREAS, under Mary's kind and attentive watch, the surrounding neighborhoods have truly embraced their new library, and

WHEREAS, Mary is now stepping away to explore other interests, going camping, gardening, reading, and doing other things she loves,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ypsilanti District Library Board thanks and honors Mary Garboden for the excellent dedicated service she has provided for our community, and wishes her the best in all future endeavors.

OFFERED BY: Trustee Winborn

SUPPORTED BY: Trustee Steimel

YES: 5 NO: 0 ABSENT: 2 VOTE: 5-0 Passed

B. DTE case evaluation hearing results discussion

Director Hoenig provided an update on the legal situation regarding this claim with DTE. She also inquired of the Board Trustees their expectations and guidance on possible settlement amounts that would be acceptable. After discussion with the Board, President Kennedy suggested delegating authority to the Finance Committee for approval. Trustee Steimel motioned to authorize the Finance

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Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes, April 16, 2025 (Unapproved)

Committee to work with the Director and counsel to review and make a final decision to accept or reject any settlement as well as parameters for this decision. Trustee Winborn seconded this motion.

OFFERED BY: Trustee Steimel

SUPPORTED BY: Trustee Winborn

YES: 5 NO: 0 ABSENT: 2 VOTE: 5-0 Passed

C. Discussion of draft from for staff input on the evaluation of the Director

Trustee Steimel provided an overview to the Board regarding the recent discussions held by the Personnel Committee in regards to processes, procedures and deadlines to solicit staff input for the Director's evaluation. A discussion was held among the Trustees and Director, and the group refined the process, stressing anonymity for the staff and how the data will be used.

D. Potential Board statement regarding Institute of Museum and Library Services federal funding

Trustee Maddix proposed that the Board provide a statement regarding federal funding. She read a draft and the trustees discussed and refined a finalized version for adoption, which follows here:

The Ypsilanti District Library Board of Trustees would like to voice its opposition to the Executive Order signed by President Trump on March 14, 2025. This order eliminates the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the federal agency responsible for distributing congressionally appropriated funds to state libraries.

IMLS funding is crucial for resource sharing, technology upgrades, staff training, and various library programs. While the loss of IMLS funding negatively impacts these services at Ypsilanti District Library, it will be devastating to many rural libraries, forcing some to even shut down. We ask that Michigan lawmakers and library lovers across the country advocate for continued IMLS funding to ensure libraries remain havens for intellectual freedom, socialization, and learning.

The Ypsilanti District Library Board of Trustees stands with Michigan libraries and museums, as well as those across the country. If you wish to stand with us in supporting our libraries, see below for steps you can take.

- You can learn more by reading the full executive order, finding out what it means for the Ypsilanti District Library, and following updates from the American Library Association.
- You can send a message to your legislators urging them to overturn the executive order and protect IMLS funding.
- You can call your legislators urging them to overturn the executive order and protect IMLS funding.
- You can get the word out! Share information on social media, write a letter to the editor in your local newspaper, and talk about the issue with friends and family. You can even share a story for ALA's story collection about the impact of federal funding on your community.

OFFERED BY: Trustee Maddix

Ypsilanti District Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes, April 16, 2025 (Unapproved)

SUPPORTED BY: Trustee Winborn

YES: 5 NO: 0 ABSENT: 2 VOTE: 5-0 Passed

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee	Comment
Trustee Cooper	Very excited to be back at Michigan Avenue.
Trustee Steimel	Happy to be at Michigan Avenue. Advised he came Monday morning to see the reopened branch, which he feels looks beautiful.
Trustee Winborn	Thanked all the library staff, and specifically the Michigan Avenue staff, for getting the library reopened.
Trustee Maddix	<p>When she was new to the Board in 2018 she read a book, Palaces for the People, by Eric Klinenberg. In this book the author describes libraries as “3rd spaces” that play a crucial role in fostering social connections and helping in times of crises. “1st spaces” are the home, and “2nd spaces” are typically work, with the “3rd spaces” being social gathering spaces. Our library pushes this further by actively reaching residents with digital access, transportation and/or housing stability, creating an environment that prioritizes dignity, belonging and voice for our patrons regardless of their circumstances. That elevates the library to the concept of the “4th space” that breaks barriers to access, meets people where they are, and fosters belonging in spaces. With that in mind she wanted to take a minute to thank some of the library’s leaders. Thank you to Mary Garboden for her 17 years of service, and her dedication to the library. Mary led our outreach efforts with compassion and purpose. She built deep community partnerships for us, and played a transformative role in helping the Superior Branch to light. Her legacy lives on in every patron she welcomed and every life that she touched, and wishes the best for her in her next chapter. Welcomes Kathryn Takach to the leadership team and her success at Superior. Was also moved by the interview Monica Porter did and her work with the bookmobile continues to make it more than a mobile library. Outreach really is its own branch, it is a community connector and a safe welcoming space for all. Her team delivers essential resources, like the hygiene and play kits, creates friendly collections and makes sure every patron feels seen, supported and valued. She has deep partnerships and that allows the library to remain a trusted and visible presence in Ypsilanti. Also wanted to thank Katie Dover-Taylor for welcoming us here to the Michigan Avenue Branch, which holds a special place here in the heart of downtown Ypsilanti. It is a cornerstone for community engagement, for historic preservation, and accessible public services. It took us much longer than we wanted to reopen this branch since the July 4th parade in July 2023, and we are fortunate to have a community that has continued to pushed us to open the doors as soon as we can, and we are sorry it took us longer than anyone of us wanted. She sees Michigan Avenue as a 4th space, as it meets patrons not just where they are but as they are. It becomes a place to warm up and it has been greatly missing. A place to print a resume, a place to be safe, anonymous and welcome, and a place where people feel seen even if they don’t say anything. So the</p>

Ypsilanti District Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes, April 16, 2025 (Unapproved)

	Michigan Avenue Branch is more than just a library, it symbolizes the Ypsilanti District Library's dedication to the community, learning, and resilience and its continued evolution reflects the library's commitment to providing inclusive and enriching spaces for all of our residents.
Trustee Tebbens	Absent
Trustee Kennedy	Very happy to have this branch open, have been smiling since I walked in, and please thank everyone for making this a reality.
Trustee Horne McGee	Absent

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Winborn moved to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Trustee Cooper seconded this motion.

Vote: Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Motion: Passed
Absent: 2