

APPROVED

Cromaine District Library  
Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday April 17, 2025

Trustees Present: Bill Bolin, Jeannine Gogoleski, Becky Basley, Nancy Rosso, Holly Naylor, Dawn Smith, Kim Armstrong

Members Absent: None

Staff Present : Sarah Neidert, Darlene Randolph

Public Present : Elizabeth Naylor, Tom Gentner, Jim Currie, Jane Currie, Elizabeth Gauthier, Colleen Moore, Lynn Burrows, Mary Rose Faus, Laura Davis, Deb Irish, Stephanie Folk, Andre Branch, Rita Branch, Glenn Gogoleski, Kelly Garvin, Emily Garvin Kugier, Mary Lou Miller, Linda Bonzack, Alice Kennedy, Karen Rex, Penny Halstead, Denise Pentescu

<b>I.</b>	President Bolin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.	
<b>II.</b>	<b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>	Pledge of Allegiance
<b>III.</b>	<b>Roll Call</b> President Bolin took roll call. Present: Bill Bolin, Jeannine Gogoleski, Beck Basley, Nancy Rosso, Holly Naylor, Dawn Smith, Kim Armstrong Absent: None	Roll Call
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Approval of Agenda</b> Trustee Smith asked to add an Item L. Withdrawal of MLA and ALA memberships. Trustee Smith moved to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Trustee Armstrong. Ayes: All Nayes: None Motion passed.	Approval of Agenda



	<p>Director Neidert received a nice thank you note from a patron thanking the Library board and staff for installing the new accessible doors on the bathrooms.</p> <p>Director Neidert provided an update about funding cuts to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) at the federal level- if IMLS is eliminated Michigan will lose federal funding for:</p> <p>MeLCat (Michigan eLibrary Catalog) -a statewide interlibrary loan system that allows patrons to borrow physical materials from participating Michigan libraries (including universities).</p> <p>MeL (Michigan eLibrary- mel.org) -a statewide resource hub offering digital databases, eBooks, research tools, and learning resources to all Michigan residents.</p> <p>MAP (Michigan Activity Pass- miactivitypass.org)-a resource that allows patrons to access free or discounted tickets to museums, parks, and other venues.</p> <p>Director Neidert brought a big binder just completed by staff- to be able to demonstrate the various non-book items in the library -the “Library of Things.” While the website has a very good search feature, which she demonstrated, the staff had been looking for a way to “show and tell” about the collection when doing outreach, and a good old -fashioned binder with paper might just do the trick.</p>	
<b>VII.</b>	<p><b>Discussion/Decision Items</b></p> <p><b>A. Strategic Plan Review</b></p> <p>Director Neidert quickly went over the previous quarter updates- a handout was provided in the board packet.</p> <p>The Jan-March 2025 entailed a brainstorming session with staff during staff-in-service for the FY 25-26 goals.</p> <p>The Adult Services staff has been working on a pilot Homebound delivery plan. This was created by the librarians in that department and presented to the management in February for feedback. This could launch in June. The library received a grant from the County Consortium on Aging which will help fund this plan.</p> <p>An Ad-Hoc Committee was formed to monitor and give updates on the Outside Landscaping project. The plans are ready to be sent to the township and the county for approval.</p>	Strategic Plan Review

	<p>The first and second floor staff offices are completed. The four quiet/study units have been installed on the first floor.</p> <p>A cloud-based system for marketing to library patrons has been selected- will begin in July with the new fiscal year.</p> <p>Moving forward, we would like to increase outreach, finish updating servers in the server room, and add staff and some community members to the Ad-Hoc Committee on the landscaping project.</p> <p><b>B. Review of third-quarter statistics</b></p> <p>The Circulation Reports are both up in sending and receiving materials through statewide interlibrary loan- MelCat. Again, this service may be stopped due to the federal cuts to IMLS. Currently there are eight databases that we pay for and approximately 80 databases that are funded by IMLS, which could change, as noted previously in the director's report.</p> <p>Physical visits have increased.</p> <p>Internet and database use is up.</p> <p>There has been a slight decrease in program attendance.</p> <p>Secretary Rosso commented on the big increase in room use. Director Neidert said it is due to the new calendar system that tracks use of the study rooms.</p> <p><b>C. National Library Week (April 7-9)</b></p> <p>This took place earlier this month. The library participated with social media posts.</p> <p><b>D. Policy #3010, Materials Selection (Community Relations)</b></p> <p>Trustee Smith stated that the committee did not come to a resolution on specific changes to this policy. The committee feels this should be a board decision.</p> <p>Trustee Naylor commented that typically, when the board comes up with different wording of substantial changes it is best policy to seek legal counsel advice. Vice President Gogoleski suggested a second opinion from a different legal firm regarding labeling. Director Neidert replied that at the committee's request she had done some research, and had a list of 21 different legal firms that work with libraries in Michigan, six came with recommendations from other library directors in SE Michigan, the rest were provided in list form from the Library of Michigan.</p> <p>Trustee Smith went on to say that there is nothing from our lawyer that says <b>not</b> to label these books. They only suggest not to do this. This is unfair to the community. It seems this lawyer is more on the side of MLA/ALA. Suggesting another lawyer would give us the same information, which is to do nothing. The</p>	<p>Review of third-quarter statistics</p> <p>National Library Week</p> <p>Policy #3010</p>
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	<p>lawyer’s best choice is to do nothing. She went on to say that we have been doing nothing for four years. The community has been asking for this for years. We should be doing it for the community.</p> <p>Vice President Gogogleski commented that the majority of the community want labels on books. Trustee Naylor disagreed and said, “that is not the case, but you have the majority if that is what you want.” This is a high- risk option. Trustee Smith said that she does not want a lawsuit to develop over this. “We have to be fair to everyone so that parents can get anything they want to read, but also be protected.”</p> <p>Vice President Gogogleski wanted clarification on how a seven year-old could go into the adult section of the library to get a book that was there. Director Neidert noted that per the library policy concerning children in the building (#2031), children seven (7) years or younger must have a parent or caregiver with them at all times in the building. It is the responsibility of that adult to restrict what a child has access to, per policy.</p> <p>Secretary Rosso reminded the board of the meeting and training session that many attended with Claire Membiela- who is a lawyer and librarian employed by the Library of Michigan- who does not work for ALA or MLA, but often provides training to librarians and boards. Her opinion, way back months ago, expressed in her handouts could not have been more clear:</p> <p><b><i>“ Members of a governing board have a <u>“Fiduciary Duty”</u> to always act in the best interest of the library-NOT the bests interests of a personal agenda, political view, religious view, or local municipal government view. Board members who use their decisions to impose personal, religious, political, or other beliefs onto library users are not acting in the best interests of the library as an entity. The library belongs to and serves an entire COMMUNITY and trustees are in place to maintain and protect the library for the entire community – not just the groups and demographics board members identify with. This is particularly true in matters where Library assets or funds are affected (or where actions could invite a lawsuit).”</i></b></p> <p>Furthermore, the handout noted:</p> <p><b><i>“70% of the American public are against <u>limits</u> or bans on library materials. Another <u>poll</u> suggests that a minority of people are the ones likely to initiate complaints and censorship behavior.”</i></b></p>	
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	<p>Secretary Rosso mentioned some cases that have ended up costing the libraries a lot of money. There are current court cases in Michigan that are pending. She agreed that it sounds reasonable to think of other attorneys, but we need to keep our eyes wide open and should reflect on how much of a risk to taxpayer's money labeling books is. Our current lawyer does not work for MLA or ALA but rather the firm Foster Swift. Secretary Rosso quoted from her April 16, 2024 letter to the board:</p> <p><i>"We understand that the library is considering enacting a policy or procedure that would require the library to label books. For the following reasons, we believe a labeling policy would be subject to challenge if the intent or the result of the policy is to "stigmatize" books (or otherwise impact First Amendment rights), or the enactment was motivated by religious views."</i></p> <p>Treasurer Basley asked what is the Community Relations Committee asking the board to do tonight? Trustee Smith clarified that the committee wanted to get the whole board's thoughts on labels- specifically the language suggested by President Bolin, which Trustee Smith thinks could be less aggressive if we change a word or two. Treasurer Basley commented that tactically the action that comes out of this decision will result in a modification of the policy itself. Trustee Smith said yes and Treasurer Basley thanked her for the clarification. Secretary Rosso asked about the new genre stickers discussed last month- "social issues"? Director Neidert said that is a different issue. That is a genre that exists that the staff were not using. The committee agreed last month that adding that genre label to certain books in the youth fiction section would help in this area of concern for the community. Trustee Smith said that is non-judgmental and is a separate issue than what we're discussing tonight. Secretary Rosso asked if those books ("social issues") have been identified by staff? Director Neidert responded that she gave staff directive to start assessing children's fiction books to see if there are those that this genre would apply to. It does not encompass non fiction books. However, we have now moved to another topic- labeling "sexually explicit books."</p> <p>Treasurer Basley stated that we are a policy making board. Operationally, the library director takes the policy and executes what is inside the policy. The part that is grey here, is I feel like we are moving in a trajectory of asking the board to participate in operational functions. Looking and deciding on what books should be labeled is a very slippery slope. This is not our role.</p> <p>Trustee Smith believes that book challenges should not be one person deciding. It should be from a community standard. Director Neidert is not the community, she is one person.</p> <p>Treasurer Basley responded by saying, from a procedure perspective, if there is a book challenge it should proceed through the process we have in place.</p>	
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	<p>President Bolin said that it is not our place to do that, but if a patron is not satisfied with results of a challenge, then it is appealed to the board, and at that time it will become our place.</p> <p>President Bolin then asked Director Neidert about the current challenge of 220 books from a patron. He was told by this patron that out of 220 books, she rejected three of them so far. Director Neidert answered “I have not yet answered any of the challenges- however I have met with the patron twice and only told her verbally that I did not see an issue with the three books she presented at the first meeting.” Director Neidert asked President Bolin if he had met with this patron separately? President Bolin said, “Yes, of course, she goes to my church”.</p> <p>Director Neidert clarified that she was told, when she asked, that this patron did not know Bill Bolin. Director Neidert then asked, “What is the point of your question just now?” President Bolin responded by wanting to know if there were letters of rejection to some books that were challenged by this patron. Director Neidert was informed by the patron that she would like all letters to all books given to her at one time so that she could appeal them all at one time. President Bolin indicated that he’d send them one at a time.</p> <p>Trustee Naylor says that this process takes time. Vice President Gogoleski stated that the director is following the process. Let the director handle this and she will then bring it to the board.</p> <p>Secretary Rosso requested Director Neidert to keep track of staff time while addressing this large number of challenges.</p> <p>Trustee Naylor asked if she has the addresses to all the people signing these book challenges? Director Neidert said that the addresses are on the forms and that there are some people in the group that are not in the library district. After meeting with the patron, they agreed that she would speak for the group, as she lives in the district and represents the views of this group, even though they are not a formal organization.</p> <p>President Bolin said to the board, “Just so you understand, this patron is heavily active in the Republican Party.” Treasurer Basley responded immediately that she is not comfortable with this and it is not appropriate to discuss an ongoing process in open meeting. Vice President Gogoleski agreed.</p> <p>Director Neidert said to President Bolin that he is welcomed to sit in the meetings with her and the patron, but she’d prefer if they not meet about this or Library matters without her.</p>	<p>Policy #4010</p>
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	<p>Trustee Smith said that we are going to see this happening at other libraries throughout Michigan and because of what is happening in the Supreme Court, people are going to figure out that they have a voice in this. The content of these books keeps getting more radical every year. This is going to be an ongoing issue.</p> <p>Treasure Basley said there is no policy solution to label a book at a board level. Vice President Gogoleski suggested taking this back to the committee to come back with suggested language, and that she is not comfortable to be voting tonight on this policy. All agreed.</p> <p>Resolution Needed: <b>Take back to the committee for language. No Resolution</b> Resolution #2025-09</p> <p>_____moved to approve Resolution #2025-09, for Policy #3010, Materials Selection, seconded by_____. A roll call is taken.</p> <p>Ayes:</p> <p>Nayes:</p> <p><b>E. Policy #4010, Public Relations and Public Information (Community Relations)</b></p> <p>Revised by correcting sentence to make it just pertinent to library use.</p> <p>Resolution Needed: Resolution #2025-10</p> <p>Vice President Gogoleski moved to approve Resolution #2025-10, for Policy #4010, Public Relations and Public Information, seconded by Trustee Armstrong. A roll call was taken.</p> <p>Ayes: Kim Armstrong, Dawn Smith, Holly Naylor, Becky Basley, Nancy Rosso, Bill Bolin, Jeannine Gogoleski</p> <p>Nayes: None Resolution passed.</p> <p><b>F. Policy #4020, Library Meeting Room Use (Community Relations)</b></p>	<p>Policy 4020</p> <p>Policy 4021</p>
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	<p>This was a complete rewrite. The Music Hall portion was eliminated. Fees were added in. This will make it more transparent to patrons. Treasurer Basley agreed that this would be very helpful.</p> <p>Resolution Needed: Resolution #2025-11</p> <p>Vice President Gogoleski moved to approve Resolution #2025-10, for Policy #4020, Public Relations and Public Information, seconded by Trustee Smith. A roll call was taken.</p> <p>Ayes: Kim Armstrong, Dawn Smith, Holly Naylor, Becky Basley, Nancy Rosso, Bill Bolin, Jeannine Gogoleski</p> <p>Nayes: None          Resolution passed.</p> <p><b>G.      Policy #4021, Hartland Music Hall Reservation and Use</b></p> <p>This is a new policy that was needed. Trustee Smith said there was a lot of work put into this by Director Neidert and Community Engagement Manager, Liz Welch. Treasurer Basley agreed and that the Music Hall is a gem and putting it in place is the right thing to do.</p> <p>Resolution Needed: Resolution #2025-12</p> <p>Vice President Gogoleski moved to approve Resolution #2025-12, to ADOPT Policy #4012, Hartland Music Hall Reservation and Use, seconded by Trustee Smith. A roll call was taken.</p> <p>Ayes: Kim Armstrong, Dawn Smith, Holly Naylor, Becky Basley, Nancy Rosso, Bill Bolin, JeannineGogoleski</p> <p>Nayes: None          Resolution passed.</p> <p><b>H.      Policy #4030, Non -Library Postings, Displays, and Solicitations (Community Relations)</b></p> <p>Reviewed only:</p>	<p>Policy 4030</p> <p>Policy 4040</p> <p>Organ Fundraiser</p> <p>Committee Meetings Public</p>
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	<p><b>I. Policy #4040, Library Blog and Social Media Sites Guidelines (Community Relations)</b></p> <p>Reviewed only:  Secretary Rosso commented that an old website with the name, Cromaine Library Board, is still live and is in violation of our policy. She said whoever owns this website needs to take it down. This was during the election and it listed Conservative Candidates. President Bolin asked, how can it be taken down if we do not know who owns it? Trustee Naylor responded, “It has your name on it”. Secretary Rosso gave President Bolin a copy of the lawyer’s letter dated Aug. 8, 2024.</p> <p><b>J. Update on Organ Fundraiser</b></p> <p>There are tickets still available for the May 2<sup>nd</sup> concert at the Music Hall.</p> <p><b>K. Update on making Committee Meetings public</b>  Director Neidert is all for this. She said it would have to be in person and in the evening so the public could attend. Trustee Smith agreed and that we should be transparent. Trustee Naylor is in agreement for public attendance. She said to make these meetings hybrid is complicated- in person would be best.  President Bolin asked Director Neidert if she contacted a company to set up the technical support for meetings to be recorded? She has reached out to the same company that we purchased the large tv from. He needs to come in and assess the room.  President Bolin responded that this needs to be taken care of quickly. If you can not meet with these people, find someone else.  Treasurer Basley said the urgency to do this is debatable. With so much going on right now, it is not a priority. Director Neidert is very busy. Be respectful. She also said, “I take an issue on the terminology that she is not working on it as fast as she can.” Trustee Naylor agreed. She mentioned that Director Neidert is working on a lot and taking on a lot of projects right now.</p> <p><b>L. Removing library from Michigan Library Association (MLA)/American Library Association (ALA)</b>  Trustee Smith stated that we should remove ourselves from these organizations because they are extremely left wing.</p>	<p>MLA/ALA</p>
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	<p>Director Neidert informed the board that the library is not an organizational member of ALA, however the budget does include paying for the membership of the Director and department heads, and staff are sent to the national conference on a rotating schedule. This is a benefit to the staff that is considered part of their compensation package.</p> <p>The library has been an organizational member of the Michigan Library Association (MLA), which fees cover the memberships for the 7 trustees and the director, along with discounted memberships for the professional staff.</p> <p>Trustee Smith would like to suggest that the library not be a member of either organization and not pay for upcoming membership in the next fiscal year.</p> <p>Secretary Rosso commented that some of our best practices come out of sharing resources with this professional organization (MLA). We get a lot of good information from other libraries. Trustee Smith wants to make sure the money we save from not paying for memberships be put to use for adequate education. A motion was made.</p> <p>Trustee Smith made a motion for the Cromaine District Library to withdraw from the Michigan Library Association effective July 1, 2025 seconded by Vice President Gogoleski. A roll call was taken.</p> <p>Ayes: Kim Armstrong, Dawn Smith, Bill Bolin, Jeannine Gogoleski</p> <p>Nayes: Holly Naylor, Nancy Rosso</p> <p>Abstain: Becky Basley                      Motion passed.</p>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy #8011, Board Compensation &amp; Expenses (Personnel)</li> <li>• Memorial Day Parade</li> <li>• Review of Employee Manual</li> <li>• Policy #3010</li> </ul>	
<b>XII.</b>	<b>Adjournment</b> Motion by Vice President Gogoleski, seconded by Treasurer Basley. Adjourned at 8:50 pm.  Ayes: All  Nayes: None      Motion passed.	Adjournment

Nancy Rosso, SECRETARY  
Cromaine District Library Board

Darlene Randolph, Recording Secretary  
Cromaine District Library Board

Documents distributed to the Board for/at this meeting:

- Agenda for Board Meeting April 17, 2025
- Minutes of Regular Meeting March 20, 2025
- April 2025 Directors Report
- February Financial Reports
- Community Relations Minutes – 04/09
- Finance Minutes - 04/14
- Ad-Hoc Committee - 04/10
- Policy #3010, 4010, 4020, 4021, 4030, 4040

- IMLS impact
- Third-quarter statistics
- Monthly activity report-March 2025
- Res. #2025-09, Resolution #2025-10, Resolution #2025-11, Resolution #2025-12