

TO: MCLS Trustees  
FROM: Gary Brandt, Liaison to the RPL Board  
DATE: December 24, 2021  
RE: RPL Board Meeting, November 17, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the MCLS Liaison to the RPL Board. I assumed that role after George Wolf retired from the MCLS Board in the Spring of 2019. It has been my privilege work with the fine RPL Trustees the past 20 months. I believe that I did not miss any RPL Board meetings, and I also was able to serve on the RPL Nomination Committee for a year as well as the newly formed Facilities Committee.

I viewed my work with the RPL Board as a small payback for all that the Rochester Libraries had done to advance my education in the 40 years that I lived in the City. I spent many afternoons and evenings as a student, young professional and then as I parent in the Maplewood, Arnett, Monroe, Winton branches, the now closed Hudson/Norton branch, the Mobile Truck Library and at Central. Many librarians knew me by my first name back decades ago. I mostly behaved when at the library.

I leave the RPL Board in the more than capable leadership of President Donna Benjamin and Vice President Dick Hamilton. I can think of no more capable citizen volunteers than Donna and Dick. I hope that my service was up to their standards.

Sincerely,

Gary A. Brandt  
MCLS Trustee

### **Report of the November 17, 2021 RPL Meeting**

The meeting on ZOOM was called to order by President Benjamin at 9 a.m. A quorum was present.

Attached is the agenda for the meeting. Action Items #1 through #5 were called, generated minimal discussion and passed unanimously.

Action Item #6 concerned the proposed agreement with the Church of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) subsidiary Family Search. The original contract with Family Search was approved at a prior meeting however a call for a new discussion about the contract resulted in this Item #6 for this meeting.

A lengthy RPL Trustee discussion occurred, with input from Deputy Mayor James Smith and City attorney Johanna Brennan. Trustee concerns were expressed regarding balancing a much-valued family research program and tool available for RPL patrons vs. the apparent discriminatory practices of the LDS church regarding the national LGBTQ community, questions of equity, and the message that contracting with the LDS might send to the citizens of Rochester. City Historian Christine Ridarsky had previously reported that the Family Search program was an excellent tool for patrons to use in self-guided genealogy research. She was also concerned about the issue of community equity and the Family Search ties to the LDS.

After considerable discussion, a vote was called to reconsider the original approval. The vote was: Recall the contract = 3, Abstentions = 4. Hence the Family Search contract approval was not recalled, however the Board did agree to form an Ad Hoc Study Committee and report back to the RPL at the next meeting. Signing of the Family Search contract is being held in abeyance until further discussion and action by the RPL Trustees.

An additional Action Item #7 was added, which was to offer a slate of officers for 2022, to be voted on at the January 2022 meeting. Trustee Drury as appointed by President Benjamin to chair the 2022 Nominating Committee. This was approved unanimously.

A discussion regarding the RPL meeting dates for 2022 occurred.

Donna Borgus delivered the monthly F&F of the RPL report, and Director Uttaro and staff reviewed their reports with the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Brandt  
RPL Trustee