

# Documenters Across the Border

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## Detroit Documenters

**Outlier Media's Documenters program** has partnered with a team of local news outlets that not only help edit Documenters notes, but support and promote the program in countless ways.



WEALTHY  
THEATRE



THE  
RAPIDIAN

## Grand Rapids Documenters

At *The Rapidian*, we believe being informed brings power to a community. That's why we introduced the **Grand Rapids Documenters program**, a part of the **nationwide Documenters network**, to create a new public record right here in the River City!

# Documenters' Notes vs. Meeting Minutes

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
City Commission  
OF THE  
CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN  
Regular Session, Tuesday, January 9, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Commission was called to order by Mayor Bliss at 2:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Mayor Bliss, Second Ward Commissioner Knight, First Ward Commissioner O'Connor, Third Ward Commissioner Perdue, First Ward Commissioner Robbins, Second Ward Commissioner Ysasi  
**Absent:** None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Result:** Approved  
**Mover:** O'Connor. **Supporter:** Robbins.  
**Yeas:** Bliss, Knight, O'Connor, Perdue, Robbins, Ysasi

On the motion of Com. O'Connor, supported by Com. Robbins, the reading of the minutes of the regular session of December 12, 2023 was waived and said minutes were accepted as presented. Carried.

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**93163 Result: Referred to Committee on Appointments.**  
Communication received from Marcel Price regarding his resignation from the South Division-Grandville Avenue Corridor Improvement Authority.

**93164 Result: Received and Filed**  
Communication received from Robb Metzger regarding lighting.

**93165 Result: Received and Filed**  
Communication received from I.A.T.S.E. Local 26 Young Workers Committee regarding parking solutions.

**93166 Result: Received and Filed**  
Communication received from Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks

# Detroit Documenters

POWERED BY OUTLIER MEDIA

## Instructions

*Please do not change or write anything on this page. Enter your notes on page 2.*

Your notes should be 2-6 single-spaced pages, including 8-10 hyperlinks.

### Before (15-30 minutes)

- **Pre-research:** Understand the agency and agenda before you arrive ([Get tips](#))

### During (~2 hours)

- **Notetaking:** Focus on debate, decisions and details like ordinance numbers, names and titles. Collect all available handouts for reference ([Get tips](#))

### After (45-60 minutes)

- **Revision:** Organize and fact-check your raw notes ([Get tips](#))
  - **Summary & Follow-up:** Briefly distill meeting highlights and your remaining questions in 1-3 sentences per bullet point ([Get tips](#))
- 

## DPSCD Regular Board Meeting

Documenter name: Felisha Tate - O'Banner

Agency: Detroit Public Schools Community District

Date: May 12, 2026

[See more about this meeting at Documenters.org](#)

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## Notes

Write and revise your "before" and "during" notes here...

## Summary

Summarize the 3 most important outcomes or takeaways from your notes. Think of these as one-sentence highlights or headlines...

- ...
- ...
- ...

## Observations & Follow-Up Questions

What observations or learnings are you taking away from this meeting? What do you feel, think or predict? What are you left wondering?

- ...
  - ...
  - ...
- 

If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email us at [documenters@outliermidmedia.org](mailto:documenters@outliermidmedia.org) with "Correction Request" in the subject line.

# City



Mobile GR Commission  
**Minutes Packet**

111 Library Street NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

May 2, 2024 @ 12:00 PM

Ryerson Library Auditorium

## I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM by Chairperson Richard Winn

PRESENT: Winn, Haynes, Wisselink, Mathis, Patton, Clark, Rayzel, Robbins, Cesa, Nyenhuis

ABSENT: Lunger (Excused), Kampmeier (Excused)

## II. Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes from March 7, 2024

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>YEAS:</b>	Winn, Haynes, Wisselink, Mathis, Patton, Clark, Rayzel, Robbins, Cesa, Nyenhuis
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Josh Lunger, Ben Kampmeier

## III. Public Comment on Agenda Items

1. Communications received regarding the proposed Residential Parking Permit Zone Changes

## IV. Action Items

## V. Discussions

## Approval of minutes

The [minutes](#) from the Mobile GR Commission meeting on March 7 were approved.

- Documenter notes from the Mobile GR Commission meeting on March 7 are available [here](#).

## Public comment on agenda items

There were a number of [written communications](#) in the [agenda](#) regarding the RPP program, most of which were expressing opposition.

There were also many residents in attendance to [express opposition](#) to the RPP program.

- After each public comment [opposing](#) the RPP program, people would applaud.
  - People were very supportive of each other as they expressed their [shared concerns](#).
- What wasn't discussed in detail, but was mentioned a couple of times during public comment, is the [soccer stadium proposed to be built](#) on the City's westside and the decision to move it forward [without any additional parking being added](#).
  - According to the [meeting agenda](#) from the [City Planning Commission](#) meeting on March 28, "the applicant [[Grand Action 2.0](#), a nonprofit, economic development organization,] has indicated that approximately 16,000 off-street parking spaces are located within a 15-minute walk of the stadium. The project team is coordinating with [Mobile GR](#) to identify which parking facilities may be reserved for stadium patrons."
- A resident of the westside said "I do not feel like there was transparency ... I do not feel supported by the City of Grand Rapids..."
- One commenter, a resident of Heritage Hill, talked about community engagement and stated "We've just been through a lot with the [zoning changes](#) [and] most of us don't feel that we were included in that process to the degree that we wanted to be."
- A westside resident said, "Stop charging the people that [are] giving life to this community."

Documenters

# **Evolving Documenters Assignments**

Context & Change

# Podcast (Grand Rapids)



# Social media “explainers” (Grand Rapids)

## Guidance

1. Identify a topic and establish 3-4 guiding questions. Then build an outline around your guiding questions.
2. Identify what resources can be used to help you find the information you need (online resources, interviews with people, etc.).
3. Begin compiling your research into “bite-size,” digestible pieces. Then break it down into a blueprint for a social media post.
4. Be sure to fact-check your work.
5. Submit your assignment.



# Documenters on the Bus (Detroit)



## DOCUMENTERS

# We spent 50 hours riding the bus around Detroit. Here's what we found

*From 'ghost buses' to unmarked bus stops, Detroit Documenters tracked reliability and accessibility on DDOT's most popular routes*

by SaMya Overall  
November 20, 2023



Bus drivers for the Detroit Department of Transportation make a starting wage of \$16.15 an hour, less than what agencies in the region offer. Despite this, drivers told Detroit Documenters that they generally like their jobs. Photo credit: Kristin Fehrman

## Historic DDOT Investment

A historic **\$220 million** Transportation Operations Budget - **\$30 million funding increase** over the current annual funding that supports the following:

- Additional \$24 million for competitive wage increases and incentives
- Additional \$6 million for operations
- A \$6/hour starting bus driver pay increase to \$25/hour, competitive with SMART driver pay
- Improved repair and maintenance capacity
- Improved quality of bus service and reliability for all riders
- Launching free rides for K-12 student transportation



MAYOR MARY SHEFFIELD  
RISE HIGHER



# Documenters on the radio (Detroit)



# The Metro: Detroit's crime is down. Can the evidence hold up?

👤 [Robyn Vincent, The Metro](#) 🕒 April 7, 2026

*Former forensic technicians went before Detroit's Board of Police Commissioners, describing conditions that could affect every criminal case passing through the unit.*



# Conclusion

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Scan for more resources!

