

Grand Rapids Area Library

3. STATUS AS A PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Grand Rapids Area Library will function as a public library as defined by Minnesota Statutes and the Grand Rapids Municipal Code.

- Minnesota Statutes chapter 134.14 states: “Every public library established under sections 134.07 to 134.15 shall be forever free to the use of the inhabitants of the city or county subject to reasonable regulations the library board may adopt.”
- Chapter 34.1 of the City Code of the City of Grand Rapids states: “There shall be established at public expense, a free public library and reading room or rooms in the city to be under the management and control of the board of directors, to be appointed in the manner prescribed by the laws of this state.”

3.1 Free and open access

It is the policy of the Board of Directors of the library that all rules and procedures of the library contribute to free and open access to resources to inform and enrich the lives of the community.

3.2 Fees and Fines

Fees may be charged to reimburse the library for costs of services such as meeting room use and single use/single user information acquisition. The Board may, however, choose to subsidize costs of any service within the bounds of the library’s budget. The purpose of fines assessed shall be to encourage timely return of materials and to recoup the costs of notice mailings.

3.3 Resource Development

The Library Board will operate its programs, establish plans of service, acquire materials, and contract for the provision of resources to meet the informational and cultural needs of individuals in its communities.

3.4 Resource dissemination

The Library will publicize available materials and resources which provide information about important local issues in order to improve the quality of public debate and decision making.