

GENESEE DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
at
Genesee District Library Headquarters
5:30 p.m.
4195 W. Pasadena Ave
Flint, MI 48504
September 19, 2022
Minutes

- Call to Order: 5:32 p.m.
- Oath of Office: C. Stritmatter administered the oath of office to F. Hinz, who replaced S. Jones as a Genesee County Board of Commissioners appointee.
- Present: Conerly-Moon, Crites (at 6:13 pm), Hinz, Hostetler, Ryals-Massey and Towarnicky.
- Also Present: C. Stritmatter (Corporation Counsel), C. Down (Corporation Counsel), A. Goldyn, and K. Flynn.
- Absent: None.
- Public Comments: None.
- Approval of Consent Agenda: L. Ryals-Massey stated she would like to make a small change to the agenda. Under new business, the Genesee Valley location lease negotiation update business will be before the Election of Officers. V. Conerly-Moon moved to accept the consent agenda as amended. Motion supported by F. Hinz. Roll call: ayes – Conerly-Moon, Hinz, Hostetler, Ryals-Massey and Towarnicky; nays - none.
- Board Development: None.
- MMLC: J. Towarnicky stated a meeting was held but it was just general business items that were discussed.
- Corporation Counsel: Nothing to report.
- GDL Foundation: J. Towarnicky stated a meeting was held and provided an update on the fund balance. She stated the Foundation will sponsor a table at the Black History Month Brunch for the Advisory Committee to sit there.
- Written Reports:
 - D. Hostetler inquired about the harassment session at the annual staff in-service and if we were having any problems with harassment. A. Goldyn replied that we are not having an issue with harassment. She stated that we are required to have that training every so often.
 - J. Towarnicky thought D. Conklin’s report is full of good news. She inquired about the Meet Up and Eat Up events if people were eating inside the library. K.Flynn replied that the people ate outside and the Branch Librarian would go outside and play games with the children.
 - J. Towarnicky was thrilled with the reported two million minutes of reading during the Summer Reading Program.

Written Reports
(continued):

J. Towarnicky stated that her grandmother used the Talking Book Center after her eyesight began to fail and it was a real game changer for her. She stated it's a wonderful program.

A. Goldyn stated there's some great news to share with the Board. K. Flynn stated that she had written a capital improvement grant for new carpeting for the Delaney-Headquarters building. She stated that we just found out last week that GDL was awarded \$27,825 for the carpet replacement. L. Ryals-Massey asked K. Flynn how much we requested in the grant. K. Flynn stated we asked for \$39,500, but no one ever receives the full amount.

L. Ryals-Massey offered kudos to R. Tackabury for the work on the new website event calendar.

L. Ryals-Massey inquired why K. Flynn and the Community Relations team were not creating the video for the Black History Month. K. Flynn replied that she and her team still have all their normal duties and felt that ABC12 would do a better job.

L. Ryals-Massey stated that M. Franklin of ABC12 has really hit the ground running as the newest member of the Black History Month Brunch Committee. She stated that he is pushing for a spectacular in-person event after only having a televised event the last two years due to the pandemic.

L. Ryals-Massey stated she appreciates that D. Conklin is linking items in his reports to the strategic plan.

L. Ryals-Massey inquired what is the World of Wonder mentioned in D. Conklin's report. K. Flynn replied that it is a preschool in Fenton.

L. Ryals-Massey inquired how the disbanding of the Davison local board would impact GDL. A. Goldyn stated there is no real impact and the branch will most likely have a Friends group in the future.

L. Ryals-Massey commented that the summer months had the largest in-person visits. She stated it must have been due to all the wonderful programs that were held.

L. Ryals-Massey inquired what is in the podcasting kit. K. Flynn stated there is a Yeti microphone, an iPad and a green screen. She stated that the kits are kept in a storage bin behind the desk and they are to be used in the library. She also stated that Clio has a podcast room, Davison has a podcast booth and Grand Blanc has the little conference rooms where patrons can record their podcast. L. Ryals-Massey inquired if training is provided for podcasting. K. Flynn replied that training is available as part of the grant, however; the kits will also have detailed instructions how to use the equipment.

D. Hostetler inquired if the strategic plan has been rolled out to the staff and A. Goldyn replied it had.

L. Ryals-Massey stated she would love to see GDL's vision stenciled on the Board room wall.

V. Conerly-Moon inquired if a start date has been given for the roofing project. A. Goldyn stated that the contractors started working on it early last week and they hope to have it finished by the end of the week.

Written Reports
(continued):

L. Ryals-Massey stated moving funds out of Huntington Bank was a good move given all the extra charges for simply providing service. She inquired if anyone from Huntington Bank reached out about closing the accounts and A. Goldyn stated that no one contacted her about closing the accounts.

L. Ryals-Massey inquired about the online training for the accounting software and it's impact on GDL. A. Goldyn stated that the training is going well, no new equipment is needed and she will have access to the software even while traveling.

Monthly Statistics:

A. Goldyn stated that the physical visit numbers are higher than last year. J. Towarnicky stated she is excited to see the number of new patrons getting library cards. J. Towarnicky inquired about library cards expiring and A. Goldyn replied that library cards need to be renewed every three years.

Finance Committee:

Nothing to report.

Personnel/Policy
Committee:

Nothing to report.

Black History Month
Brunch Update:

L. Ryals-Massey thanked K. Flynn for attending the meeting to provide an update on the Black History Month Brunch. K. Flynn stated the Advisory Committee has met twice. She stated that M. Franklin with ABC12 has joined the Committee and has brought some new ideas. She stated they are working hard to have a spectacular event on February 4, 2023 at the Genesys Banquet and Conference Center. She stated that M. Franklin suggested having a keynote speaker and has reached out to nine different potential speakers. She stated that the entertainment portion will be short due to the potential cost of a keynote speaker and the talent will be a local groups to avoid possible travel issues. V. Conerly-Moon voiced her concern that it would not be a gospel brunch like recent years. K. Flynn stated the Brunch has not always been a gospel event. L. Ryals-Massey stated that since she has been on the Board and attending the Brunch, there has not been a defined music genre. V. Conerly-Moon inquired about the next committee meeting and K. Flynn replied it is October 5. L. Ryals-Massey inquired when tickets will go on sale and if the price remains the same. K. Flynn replied ticket sales start on December 1 and the cost remains the same. K. Flynn stated they have received 23 nominations to date and nominations are open until September 30. K. Flynn stated once the nominations are closed, the committee will meet to discuss the candidates and then complete the rubric which will determine the top two people that will become the Brunch honorees.

Closed Session:

V. Conerly-Moon moved to enter into closed session at 6:05 pm to discuss the collective bargaining agreement negotiations. Motion supported by D. Hostetler. Roll call: ayes – Conerly-Moon, Hinz, Hostetler, Ryals-Massey and Towarnicky; nays – none.

Open Session:

F. Hinz moved to return to open session at 6:23 pm. Motion supported by R. Crites. Roll call: ayes – Conerly-Moon, Crites, Hinz, Hostetler, Ryals-Massey and Towarnicky; nays – none.

Proposed Scheduled
Closings in 2023:

F. Hinz moved to approve the proposed scheduled closings for 2023 as presented. Motion supported by V. Conerly-Moon. Roll call: ayes – Conerly-Moon, Crites, Hinz, Hostetler, Ryals-Massey and Towarnicky; nays – none.

Proposed Board Meeting
Dates in 2023:

V. Conerly-Moon moved to accept the proposed board meeting dates for 2023 as presented. Motion supported by J. Towarnicky. Roll call: ayes – Conerly-Moon, Crites, Hinz, Hostetler, Ryals-Massey and Towarnicky; nays – none.

Genesee Valley Location
Lease Negotiations:

C. Stritmatter stated the lease is up for renewal at the end of the year. The mall has changed owners and he had reached out to the previous attorney representing them. He stated that he received a new notice about who presents them and has contacted them to begin the lease renewal process. He stated that has not yet heard back from them. He stated that the recent issues with the HVAC equipment will be discussed. R. Crites inquired if much is known about the new owners and C. Stritmatter replied he does not know much about them.

Election of Officers:

C. Stritmatter stated he would officiate the election process. He called for nominations for the Board Chair. R. Crites nominated L. Ryals-Massey. Motion supported by J. Towarnicky. C. Stritmatter called for further nominations; however, none were forthcoming and he closed nominations. Roll call: ayes – Conerly-Moon, Crites, Hinz, Hostetler, Ryals-Massey and Towarnicky; nays – none.

C. Stritmatter called for nominations for the Vice Chair. L. Ryals-Massey nominated D. Hostetler. Motion supported by J. Towarnicky. C. Stritmatter called for further nominations; however, none were forthcoming and he closed nominations. Roll call: ayes – Conerly-Moon, Crites, Hinz, Hostetler, Ryals-Massey and Towarnicky; nays – none.

C. Stritmatter called for nominations for Treasurer. L. Ryals-Massey nominated V. Conerly-Moon; however, V. Conerly-Moon respectfully declined the nomination. L. Ryals-Massey nominated R. Crites. Motion supported by V. Conerly-Moon. C. Stritmatter called for further nominations; however, none were forthcoming and he closed nominations. Roll call: ayes – Conerly-Moon, Crites, Hinz, Hostetler, Ryals-Massey and Towarnicky; nays – none.

C. Stritmatter called for nominations for Secretary. L. Ryals-Massey nominated J. Towarnicky. Motion supported by R. Crites. C. Stritmatter called for further nominations; however, none were forthcoming and he closed nominations. Roll call: ayes – Conerly-Moon, Crites, Hinz, Hostetler, Ryals-Massey and Towarnicky; nays – none.

Committee

Appointments:

L. Ryals-Massey asked that Board Members remain on their current committee assignments. She appointed F. Hinz to the Finance Committee. She stated that when the two Board vacancies are filled, they will be assigned to committees.

Board Comments:

F. Hinz stated apparently he’s joined the Board at an interesting time.

L. Ryals-Massey stated that she will be attending the Michigan Library Association (MLA) conference October 19-21.

V. Conerly-Moon stated she just found out that K. Richards, a former GDL employee, was appointed as Director of the Free Library of Philadelphia.

Adjournment:

6:45 pm.