

**GENESEE DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD MEETING**

**At**

**Genesee District Library Headquarters**

**5:30 p.m.**

**4195 West Pasadena Avenue**

**Flint, MI 48504**

**November 18, 2019**

**Minutes**

- Call to Order: 5:30 p.m.
- Present: Bennett, Conerly-Moon (via phone), Crites, Hostetler, Jones, Ryals-Massey and Towarnicky.
- Also Present: C. Stritmatter (Corporation Counsel), D. Conklin, and A. Goldyn.
- Absent: Armstrong.
- Public Comments: None.
- Approval of  
Consent Agenda: S. Jones moved to approve the consent agenda. Motion supported by R. Crites. Motion carried unanimously.
- Board Development: Nothing to report.
- MMLC: R. Crites stated that he will be signing checks on Friday, but nothing else to report.
- Corporation Counsel: C. Stritmatter stated that a response deadline has been pushed back in regards to the retiree lawsuit.
- GDL Foundation: Nothing to report.
- Written Reports: J. Towarnicky stated she was excited about the grant for the roof at Grand Blanc.
- J. Towarnicky inquired about the incident of the agitated patron at Headquarters. D. Conklin stated that the patron eventually complied with staff's direction.
- S. Bennett appreciated the background information on W. Delaney to support the name change of the Headquarters' building.
- L. Ryals-Massey agrees that the McMillan Publishing is out to increase their revenue by limiting libraries' purchases of e-books.
- L. Ryals-Massey stated that she hopes the proposed changes to the Library Privacy Act passes; however, she doesn't want to infringe on patrons' rights.
- L. Ryals-Massey offered kudos to staff for continuing to do a great job with programs.
- L. Ryals-Massey stated she would like to see sponsors' tables for the Black History Month Brunch be placed towards the front or middle of the room. She stated that last year they were hidden in the back.

L. Ryals-Massey likes the evening story times on the patio at Grand Blanc. V. Conerly-Moon inquired if we could expand the evening story times to other branches. L. Ryals-Massey believes it would be very helpful for working parents.

Written Reports  
(Continued):

L. Ryals-Massey thanked D. Conklin for allowing more staff to attend the annual Michigan Library Association conference.

L. Ryals-Massey inquired about tracking the Summer Reading Program using an online system. D. Conklin stated the old process involved tracking reading progress on paper. The new process would track the progress through an online portal that has the same basic concept.

S. Jones inquired how our monthly visits and computer usage compare to other libraries in the state. D. Conklin stated he doesn't have an immediate answer; however, those statistics are collected on the annual state aid reporting and he would get the figures to him. S. Jones stated he is impressed with the number of physical visits because it shows that the community still finds value in our services.

Monthly Statistics: Nothing to report.

Finance Committee: R. Crites stated a meeting was held last week to review the budget and then gave a brief overview of it. L. Ryals-Massey stated that the committee recommends the board pass it as presented. Various board members had questions regarding the budget and A. Goldyn answered them.

Marketing Committee: Nothing to report.

Personnel Committee: Nothing to report.

Policy Committee: Nothing to report.

Committee

Appointments:

L. Ryals-Massey stated based upon feedback from the board members and staff, she's made committee appointments. She stated that the Finance Committee will consist of V. Conerly-Moon, S. Jones and R. Crites will continue as committee chair. She stated that this year the Policy and Personnel Committees are being combined and will consist of D. Hostetler, J. Towarnicky and S. Bennett, who will serve as committee chair. The GDL Foundation will have J. Towarnicky; Black History Month Brunch will have S. Jones; MMLC will have R. Crites; and the Marketing Committee will become inactive for the upcoming year.

L. Ryals-Massey stated that the new Personnel Committee needs to look at the rating system for the Director's annual evaluation.

S. Jones inquired if there was a committee meeting schedule. L. Ryals-Massey stated that there are no set dates for committee meetings; however, they are scheduled by the committee chair. C. Stritmatter stated that all committee meetings must be posted as open public meetings.

2020 Budget: R. Crites moved to adopt the 2020 budget as presented. Motion supported by S. Jones. Roll call: ayes - Bennett, Conerly-Moon, Crites, Hostetler, Jones, Ryals-Massey and Towarnicky; nays – none.

Headquarters Name  
Change:

L. Ryals-Massey stated that based upon all the work that W. Delaney completed to keep the library system operational, it is befitting to name the Headquarters' building after him. L. Ryals-Massey moved to approve the name change. Motion supported by S. Bennett. S. Jones inquired how this would be announced to the community and the rationale behind the decision. R. Crites stated it would be a nice to have a public ceremony and invite W. Delaney. S. Jones and V. Conerly-Moon stated we need to be prepared for possible backlash to the change. Further discussion centered on the creating a process for such changes to avoid possible backlash. L. Ryals-Massey proposed to go before the Genesee County Commissioners and the Grand Blanc Township officials to get their feedback on the name change. S. Bennett feels that's a good compromise. L. Ryals-Massey withdrew her motion and it would appear on the January agenda under Unfinished Business.

Board Comments:

L. Ryals-Massey stated she wants everyone to speak freely.

L. Ryals-Massey stated that everyone should have a copy of the Michigan Library Trustee Manual. She stated she will be getting with Corporation Counsel to see what items can be brought forth for future board development training.

L. Ryals-Massey stated that the annual Black History Month Brunch will be held on Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. She would like to see as many board members there as possible.

L. Ryals-Massey wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving. S. Bennett wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

D. Conklin stated that there is a tentative agreement on the union contract. He stated there is an information meeting on Wednesday for union employees and the vote will take place on Friday. If the union employees vote in favor of the contract, the Board would need to have a special meeting in December to ratify the contract. The tentative date of the special meeting would be December 16<sup>th</sup> and would be held at the Williams Firm in Grand Blanc.

Adjournment:

S. Jones moved to adjourn at 6:34 p.m. Motion supported by J. Towarnicky.