

GENESEE DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
Online Via Zoom & Telephone
5:30 p.m.
July 20, 2020
Minutes

- Call to Order: 5:30 p.m.
Oath of Office: C. Stritmatter administered the oath of office to K. Johns, who replaced M. Armstrong as a Genesee County Board of Commissioners appointee.
Present: Bennett, Conerly-Moon, Crites, Hostetler, Johns, Jones, Ryals-Massey and Towarnicky.
Also Present: C. Stritmatter (Corporation Counsel), D. Conklin, and A. Goldyn. Public: T. Carlton, E. Kish, and K. Flynn.
Absent: None.
Public Comments: None.
Approval of Consent Agenda: R. Crites moved to approve the consent agenda. Motion supported by V. Conerly-Moon. Motion carried unanimously.
Board Development: Nothing to report.
MMLC: R. Crites stated that his term on the MMLC board is coming to an end in September due to term limits. He stated the amount of State funds will be reduced. He stated the annual performers' showcase will be done online this year.
Corporation Counsel: C. Stritmatter stated there has been nothing new from the appeals court regarding the retiree lawsuit.
GDL Foundation: J. Towarnicky stated no meetings have been held since March.
Written Reports: J. Towarnicky stated that she knows the re-opening has been very difficult and wants to thank the staff for handling it so well.
S. Bennett inquired if staff members were collecting unemployment during the shutdown. D. Conklin replied that the full-time employees continued to be paid as normal while the part-time employees were collecting unemployment. S. Bennett inquired if it was hard getting the part-time employees to come back to work and D. Conklin replied that it was not.
S. Bennett inquired when we think we can move to phase three of the re-opening. D. Conklin replied that as soon as the Governor states we can exceed 25% capacity, then we'll move to phase three. S. Bennett inquired if we had to deny people access so we do not exceed the 25% capacity limit and D. Conklin replied yes, we had to make people wait outside. S. Bennett wondered how this would work if this limited capacity continues into winter.
S. Jones inquired how we determine if the building is at capacity. D. Conklin stated that the person in charge of the branch, on any given day, will go around and do a building

Written Reports
(continued):

capacity census during the required hourly cleaning schedule. He stated that we limit computer usage to one hour per day because of the reduced number of computers available for social distancing purposes. He also stated that we are trying to encourage people to get what they need and leave so that other people may have access to the building too. S. Jones inquired if we will extend the computer usage time anytime soon. D. Conklin replied that some library systems are not allowing patrons to use the computers at all. He stated that we know our patrons truly need the access and feel the limit is fair at this time to allow for more people to have the access they need. He also stated that as soon as statewide restrictions are reduced or lifted, we will revisit the time limit and the number of computers available for the public to use.

L. Ryals-Massey offered kudos to the staff for their hard work in preparation for opening. She inquired how cleaning is handled when patrons are present. D. Conklin stated that if a patron is using a computer, it gets cleaned after the patron leaves. L. Ryals-Massey inquired how we are handling the Governor's new mask mandate. D. Conklin stated that with the new mandate, staff must ask all patrons to wear a mask unless they state they have a medical condition.

L. Ryals-Massey inquired of K. Flynn if the new streaming equipment is available for the public. K. Flynn stated it is for staff use only at this time. She further stated the room is also being used for storage and is not open to the public at this time. D. Conklin stated that we have canceled all in-branch programming, like that, through the end of the year.

L. Ryals-Massey inquired if the emergency preparedness and response plan that keeps changing is posted online and D. Conklin replied it is on the website.

L. Ryals-Massey inquired about payments being made to the law firm of Carl Bekofske. A. Goldyn responded it is for a court ordered garnishment of an employee's paycheck.

Monthly Statistics:

Nothing to report.

Finance Committee:

R. Crites stated he spoke to A. Goldyn earlier and she indicated that property tax revenue is not expected to be decreased this year, unlike the penal fines which may experience a decrease. He stated that the library is in good shape with the pension and retiree healthcare liabilities.

Personnel/Policy
Committee:

S. Bennett stated that new language has been proposed for the strategic plan, which is an action item tonight.

2021-2023 Strategic
Plan:

J. Towarnicky moved to approve the strategic plan as presented. Motion supported by S. Jones. S. Bennett stated she believes it should be tabled and have more discussion on the plan. L. Ryals-Massey stated it should go back to the committee for further review. Further discussion centered on the new language, procedures and the metrics of the goals. J. Towarnicky withdrew her motion to approve the plan and return it to the committee. Motion supported by S. Bennett. Roll call: ayes – Bennett, Crites, Hostetler, Johns, Ryals-Massey and Towarnicky; nays – Jones. Motion carried (*Moon was unable to vote as her phone was muted). S. Bennett inquired about room capacity restrictions because she feels it would be best for the board to meet in person to discuss the strategic plan. D. Conklin stated none of the libraries have rooms big enough to properly social distance. S. Bennett and L. Ryals-Massey made suggestions on meeting rooms that may be available. S. Jones wanted the record to reflect that he works outside of Genesee County and would not be available until after 6 p.m. for a meeting. L. Ryals-Massey suggested a meeting on Saturday, but S. Jones and S. Bennett stated they would prefer to have it during the week as Saturday is family time.

Strategic Plan
(continued):

S. Bennett suggested a 7 p.m. meeting in either Grand Blanc Township or Atlas Township. L. Ryals-Massey asked D. Conklin to schedule an in-person strategic planning meeting, if possible, within the guidelines of the Governor's Executive Order.

Form L-4029 for Tax
Authorization:

A. Goldyn explained the form authorizes GDL to collect the property tax revenue needed for operations and needs to be signed by the Board Chair and Board Secretary. Motion by J. Towarnicky to have the appropriate people sign the form. Motion supported by D. Hostetler. Motion carried unanimously.

Black History Month
Brunch:

L. Ryals-Massey stated that the annual Brunch is a board sponsored event and given the current conditions with COVID-19, it is necessary that the Board provides direction to the planning committee as to how to proceed; time is of the essence considering the planning that goes into making the Brunch a success. After much discussion around virtual or in-person K. Flynn was asked to explore options and report back to the Board. D. Conklin stated that the 2021 Brunch details will be in the next board packet. L. Ryals-Massey thanked the board for their feedback.

Board Comments:

L. Ryals-Massey welcomed K. Johns to the board. K. Johns stated that he and his family are avid library users and looks forward to serving on the board. S. Jones also welcomed K. Johns to the board.

S. Jones stated this has been a difficult meeting for him and he looks forward to when we can have in-person meetings again. He indicated that he felt disrespected and that he was the only board member committed to diversity, equity and inclusion.

In response to S. Jones' comments, J. Towarnicky stated that she believes everyone is committed to diversity and inclusion. Perhaps the language needs to be reviewed and stated differently. She believes the Board is engaged, supported and committed to the idea.

Shari Bennett stated that she did not hear anything disrespectful.

L. Ryals-Massey stated that as Board Chair, it is her responsibility to ensure that meetings are conducted with respect for everyone and apologized if he felt disrespected. She stated that diversity has been a conversation on the Board since she joined.

L. Ryals-Massey thanked T. Carlton for attending the meeting. She wanted T. Carlton to pass along the board's gratitude to the staff for everything that they are doing during this time.

Adjournment:

S. Bennett moved to adjourn at 6:52 p.m. Motion supported by R. Crites.