



Valerie Acklin
Library Director

2023-2024
Board of Trustees

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Richard Carlson

Jonathan Federman

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Minutes of the Gloversville Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting July 30, 2024 at 6 PM

The Gloversville Public Library Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Tuesday, July 30, 2024. Present were President, Gregory Niforos; Vice-President, Merry Dunn-Brown; Library Director, Valerie Acklin; Treasure, Michael Frank; Board members: Charles Reed, Caren Pepper, John Federman, and Richard Carlson. Charlotte Will and Sue Shrader were not in attendance. Also present was Recording Secretary Sally Ostrander and a member of the public.

Mr. Niforos called the meeting to order at 6:22 PM.

Mr. Niforos started the meeting by welcoming the public to the meeting, stating they would be allowed 3 minutes to speak. The individual attending from the public, C. Quackenbush of Gloversville, shared suggestions for the next tax levy vote, that they felt would increase voter turnout. When finished, Mr. Niforos thanks him for his input. Mr. Quackenbush then left the meeting.

Mr. Niforos asked for a motion to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 18th, 2024.

Ms. Dunn-Brown made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pepper. After a short discussion, including grammatical corrections, Mr. Niforos asked for a vote to accept the minutes with the updates made. The minutes were approved with a unanimous vote of "aye."

Mr. Frank delivered his Treasurer's Report. Mr. Reed made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Mr. Carlson seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion with a vote of "aye".

Mr. Frank distributed the Warrants List. Warrants list. After allowing time for Board members to review the Warrant list, Mr. Niforos asked for a motion to accept the Warrant list. Mr. Federman made a motion to accept, seconded by Mr. Carlson. The Board approved this motion with a vote of "aye."

Mr. Reed delivered the Budget and Finance Committee report. He explained the need to keep a very close eye on both income and expenses in the upcoming year, and the possible need to freeze or slow spending if income is not coming in as projected.

Mr. Frank stated there was no Foundation Report.

Mr. Niforos gave the Friends of the Library Report. Mr. Reed said he was putting together the basket for the Friend's basket raffle. He asked for a donation from the Board members to cover the cost of the basket.

Mr. Niforos presented the President's Report. He said he and Ms. Acklin met with a couple of consultants about planning for next year's Budget vote. More about this will be discussed later in the meeting under new business. He also thanked Library staff for the successful reorganization of Library materials which was necessary due to the failed tax levy vote.

Mr. Carlson presented the Building and Grounds Committee report. He stated that Phase II of the parking lot was now complete. Mr. Carlson also noted that with winter coming they need to send out an RFP for the snow and ice removal.

Mr. Niforos brought up discussion of the newly-formed Redistricting Ad Hoc Committee, which will research how Library can grow its service population.

There was no Local History Room Committee Report.

Ms. Dunn-Brown delivered the Outreach Committee Report. They are working on an event to be held in March or April and are preparing talking points to present to community leaders to explain the services offered by the Library.

The Personnel Committee Report was presented by Mr. Niforos. They met with Ms. Acklin to discuss the Director's evaluation, and discussed goals, operations, and job duties. Ms. Acklin asked for approval to increase the hours of two part-time employees while the Library is short-staffed. Mr. Federman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pepper. The Board approved this motion with a vote of "aye". Ms. Acklin stated that Civil Service said we have a Library Clerk position that needs to be abolished. Ms. Dunn-Brown made the motion to abolish this position, seconded by Mr. Carlson. The Board approved with a vote of "aye".

A Policy Committee discussion followed regarding the use of meeting room space.

Ms. Pepper presented the Program Committee Report, discussing the elimination of certain programs due to budget cuts.

There was no report from the Public Relations Committee.

Ms. Acklin presented the Library Director's Report. She discussed how hard the staff worked during the re-organization and how smoothly the move went. During the move, the Friends provided a pizza lunch for the staff, and Ms. Acklin thanked them for their kindness. She reminded the Trustees that the Library will be closed on Friday, September 20 for state-mandated staff training. Board members may also attend.

Mr. Niforos asked for old business. Ms. Acklin stated that the Family Counseling Center had given the Library a donation for a community food fridge. Due to the budget restrictions, the Library cannot pursue the project at this time, so we will be returning the funds. There was also discussion about the homeless population who spend time in the Library. It was noted that there are very few public spaces available to them. There is a difference between feeling unsafe and uncomfortable and action can only be taken for legitimate issues.

Mr. Niforos asked for new business. Ms. Acklin showed the Board the MVLS trading card for the Gloversville Public Library, part of the system's MVLS-GO summer initiative. Mr. Niforos mentioned again that he and Ms. Acklin met with two library consultants about next year's election. They provided ideas for mailings and community outreach. A more detailed discussions of their proposals will take place at future Board meetings. Ms. Acklin stated she was asked by the director of the Amsterdam Free Library to sign a letter to MVLS stating the Library's confidence in MVLS, in the light of Schenectady Public Library's planned withdrawal from Joint Automation. After discussion, Mr. Reed made a motion to decline signing the letter, at this time, seconded by Mr. Carlson. This motion was approved with a vote of "aye".

Ms. Acklin asked for a motion to amend the Meeting Room policy to allow municipal organizations within our service area to use our meeting rooms during this fiscal year. Ms. Dunn-Brown made the motion, seconded by Ms. Pepper. The motion was approved with a vote of "aye".

At 8:30 PM, Mr. Niforos asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Reed made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dunn-Brown, to adjourn. This was approved by a unanimous vote of "aye".

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Ostrander, Recording Secretary