



Minutes of the Gloversville Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting November 19, 2024 at 6 PM

The Gloversville Public Library Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Tuesday, November 19, 2024. Present were President, Gregory Niforos; Vice-President, Merry Dunn-Brown; Library Director, Valerie Acklin; Vice-President of Finance, Charles Reed; Treasurer, Michael Frank; Richard Carlson; Caren Pepper; Susan Shrader; and Charlotte Will. Also present was recording secretary, Sally Ostrander, and one person (Ms. S) from the public.

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

Mr. Niforos asked for public comments. Ms. S addressed the Board about her experience as a guest reader at story time a couple of weeks ago. She said it was rewarding and suggested that Board members volunteer to be guest readers.

Mr. Niforos congratulated Mr. Frank for acting as the Library's Treasurer for 35 years and for being a mentor to other Board members. The Board presented Mr. Frank with a card.

Mr. Niforos asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the Board meeting of October 15, 2024. Mr. Ms. Dunn-Brown made a motion to accept the minutes with changes noted, seconded by Ms. Shrader. The minutes were approved with a unanimous vote of "aye."

Mr. Frank delivered the Treasurer's Report. He reviewed the receipts and expenses in the General Fund Account for October. He noted that in October the Library received the tax levy funds. Mr. Reed made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded Ms. Pepper. The Board approved the motion with a vote of "aye."

Mr. Frank distributed the Warrants List. Time was allowed for Board members to review and discuss various items on the Warrant list. Mr. Reed made a motion to accept, seconded by Ms. Shrader. The Board approved this motion with a vote of "aye."

Mr. Reed stated there was no report from the Budget and Finance Committee. Mr. Frank stated there was no Foundation Report. The Committee will be meeting in early December.

Mr. Niforos presented the Friend's Report on behalf of Ms. LaPorta.

Mr. Niforos presented the President's Report. He said there has been some concern generated by the outcome of the election over the Library's future. Mr. Niforos wants to assure the public that the Library will continue to provide services in accordance with our mission and our policies, to educate, inform, and defend our freedom to read. All are welcome at the Library.

Mr. Carlson presented the Buildings and Grounds Report. He stated that the Atrium dome project is now moving into the bid phase with construction scheduled for the Spring of 2025. In other ongoing projects, Mr. Carlson stated that the security camera project is moving forward with grant applications, and the expectation is that installation will be done in 2026.

Mr. Reed stated there was no Local History Room Committee Report.

Ms. Dunn-Brown delivered the Outreach Committee report. She stated that the Outreach Committee has a table at the Soroptimist Craft Fair at the Gloversville Middle School on Sunday, November 24.

Ms. Shrader presented the Personnel Committee Report. She stated that the Committee has held two meetings to go over the employee handbook and discuss proposed staffing and benefit packages and how these changes would affect the budget.

Mr. Acklin presented the Policy Committee Report. She did the second read for the "Patron Behavior Policy" and the "Computer & Internet Policy." Ms. Dunn-Brown made a motion to adopt the Patron Behavior Policy and the Computer and Internet Policy, seconded by Ms. Will. The motion was approved with a vote of "aye."

Ms. Pepper stated that there was no report from the Program Committee. However, she would like to set up a meeting with Ms. Acklin to discuss a timeline for adding back some of the core programs when funding becomes available.

Valerie Acklin
Library Director

2024-2025
Board of Trustees

Merry Dunn Brown

Richard Carlson

Jonathan Federman

Greg Niforos

Caren Pepper

Charles Reed

Susan Shrader

Charlotte Will

Ms. Will and Mr. Niforos will be meeting regarding the duties of the Public Relations Committee.

Mr. Niforos stated there was nothing to report from the Redistricting Ad Hoc Committee.

Mr. Niforos gave the report for the Trustee Search Ad Hoc Committee and stated that the search for a new Trustee is still ongoing.

Ms. Acklin presented the Director's Report. She recently attended the NYLA conference and provided a summary of the sessions she attended.

Mr. Niforos asked for old business. Mr. Niforos and Ms. Acklin will meet with the consultant (Elissa Kane) on Friday to set up a timetable and plan to prepare for the next budget vote. After which, they will meet with various Board committees to enlist their help in promoting and informing the public about our next budget vote.

Mr. Niforos asked for new business. The Library was contacted by the owner of a piece of art by local artist Jack Horning, asking that it be displayed at the Library. Mr. Reed made a motion to have Mr. Niforos and Ms. Acklin move forward with crafting an agreement with the owner to accept the piece on permanent loan. The motion was seconded by Ms. Shrader, and approved with a vote of "aye."

Mr. Niforos asked for a motion to allow the Library to override the 2% New York State Tax Gap for the next fiscal year. A motion was made by Mr. Reed and seconded by Mr. Carlson. The motion was approved with a vote of "aye."

At 7:43 PM, Mr. Niforos asked for a motion to move to Executive Session to discuss staff to discuss individual staff hours. A motion was made by Mr. Reed and seconded by Ms. Pepper. The motion was approved with a vote of "aye."

The motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:31 PM was made by Ms. Shrader and seconded by Mr. Reed. It was approved with a unanimous vote of "aye."

Once out of Executive Session, a motion was made by Ms. Will and seconded by Ms. Shrader to change the Library's operating hours on Monday to 12 Noon to 7 PM effective January 2, 2025. The motion was approved with a vote of "aye."

A motion was made by Mr. Reed to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 PM and seconded by Ms. Shrader. The motion was approved with a vote of "aye."

The next Board meeting will be held at 6 PM on December 17, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Ostrander, Recording Secretary