

DRAFT
Prosser Public Library
Library Board of Directors
June 12, 2018

Attendance: Roberta LaMonaca (*Library Director*), Joan Geetter (Chairperson), Beverlee Merritt (Vice-Chairperson), Martha Brackeen-Harris (Secretary-Treasurer), Ava Biffer, Ann Leavitt, Penny Pearson (*Friends of the Library Representative*)

Absent: Harvey Frydman

Quorum present? Yes, 5 of 6

J. Geetter called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

Maxine Bleiweis – J. Geetter explained that she and Roberta decided to cancel the consultation with Maxine Bleiweis, because Maxine’s services seem better suited to a strategic plan.

Roll Call – J. Geetter performed roll call and noted the absence of H. Frydman.

Report from the Friends of the Library

One Book Events – Both of the concluding One Book events– the luncheon with Martha Hall Kelly and the Friends sponsored bus trip to the Bellamy-Ferriday house – were well attended and well received.

Paperback Book Sale – The last event of the Friends’ season, the Paperbacks & More Book Sale, will be held on Saturday, June 23rd. Items are only .25¢ each.

Meetings – The Friends won’t meet again until September, which will kick-off the membership drive for the new season. As of June 1st, the Friends had 472 members, and 190 lifetime members.

Chairperson’s Report

Riley’s Property – J. Geetter left a message for Phil Schenck earlier in the day to ask for an update on the status of the Riley’s Lumber property. She had not received an answer before the meeting.

Director’s Report

PLA Intern – The library has selected Bloomfield High School student Ja’Nirah Polk for the internship funded by the Public Library Association. Allison Wilkos and Ja’Nirah will be heading to Washington D.C. for the kick-off of the program.

One Book Events – This year’s One Book events were a success. 148 people attended the Martha Hall Kelly luncheon at Wintonbury Hills. The event generated such a positive response that the library is considering a similar author event in 2019. 47 people took the Friends’ sponsored trip to the Bellamy-Ferriday house.

Building Improvements – Two building improvements were recently completed at Prosser: A new linoleum floor was installed in the elevator, and the pad that operates the front automatic door was replaced by a sensor system.

Bloomfield Interfaith Grant – Prosser has received \$750 from the Bloomfield Interfaith group to host a documentary and series of discussions on race. The three-day program will be hosted by Dr. Raja Staggers-Hakim, and take place on 9/25, 10/13, and 10/30.

Hartford Foundation Listening Tour – The Hartford Foundation will be at Auer Farm on Wednesday, June 13th, at 5:30pm, as part of its listening tour. R. LaMonaca will attend.

Kanopy Streaming Service – The library’s new video streaming service, Kanopy, went live on Friday, June 8th.

Bloomfield High School – The interviews with high school students for the internship opening revealed a need for an interview skills workshop, especially for students in the 9th and 10th grades. R. LaMonaca spoke with Chief Academic Officer Stacey McCann and Rosa Matias at HR about a partnership to offer such training at the library. Roberta and Stacey also discussed the idea of having freshman English classes walk to the library for an orientation.

Speak Up Event – The Friends have provided \$1500 to hire Don White, a singer, storyteller, and comedian who hosts Speak Up events that aim to give young people a voice. The plan is for Mr. White to host events at the high school during the day, and then to perform at another location in town in the evening. The date for the event has yet to be finalized.

Summer Reading – With \$8000 from the Friends to cover the cost of prizes, promotional materials, and programs, the library is ready for this year’s summer reading program – “Libraries Rock” – to kick-off on June 25th.

Old Business – There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

Briefing and Discussion on Libbie Post Presentation – J. Geetter, B. Merritt, and A. Leavitt reported on the the recent Libbie Post presentation in Middletown, noting that Libbie emphasized focus groups (including with non-library users), branding/messaging, social media, and the value of having a strong economic pitch. B. Merritt suggested that board members make an effort to attend more library programs as a way to reach people. J. Geetter put forth the idea of contacting Libbie Post and exploring the idea of hiring her to help provide a blueprint for advocacy.

MOTION to allow J. Geetter to contact Libbie Post – for the purpose of providing context and asking her what she would charge to develop an advocacy blueprint, one piece at a time – and to use Prosser funds up to \$4000 to start the consultation project; seconded and passed, with one member opposed.

To discuss Libbie’s response to the board’s inquiries, the board decided to schedule a special meeting for Tuesday, July 10, at 5:00 PM, to be held in the Prosser study room.

Approval of CD Renewals – The Farmington Bank CD, which currently contains \$16,327 from the building fund, is set to mature on 7/23/18. R. LaMonaca recommended adding \$5000 from savings to the new CD, which has been approved for a rate of 1.35%. **MOTION to renew CD at Farmington Bank at 1.35%, when it matures on 7/23/18; seconded and passed.**

A Windsor Federal CD with \$39,508 is set to mature on 6/19/18. MOTION to renew the CD at Windsor Federal at 1.35% for 12 months; seconded and passed.

New Photo for Prosser Website – The library board photograph for the library’s website will be taken after the meeting.

Policy Regarding Selling Items in the Library – In response to an inquiry by the Wintonbury Historical Society about selling a booklet at the library, R. LaMonaca proposed that the board consider amending

the policy on solicitations to address selling in the library. The policy would allow for non-profit, local partners to sell items at the library, but only at the discretion of the library board. R. LaMonaca and Chris Siloac will work on a draft of the policy that can be reviewed at the July meeting.

Public Comments – There were no public comments.

MOTION to accept the minutes of the May 8, 2018 meeting; seconded and approved.

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 PM; seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Siloac,
Technology & Administrative Coordinator