

FINAL
Prosser Public Library
Library Board of Directors
September 11, 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 5:00 p.m.

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

Report from the Friends of the Library

Fall Book Sale – This year's fall book sale will be held on October 25th-27th. Donations are still being accepted.

Annual Brochure – The Friends annual membership brochure will be mailed town-wide this week.

Chairperson's Report

Libbie Post – J. Geetter emailed Libbie Post about the possibility of working with the board on a new strategic plan. At Libbie's request, Joan sent her the library's previous strategic plan but has yet to hear back from her, due to Libby having had surgery.

Human Services Building – There has been some push at town council meetings for a swimming pool to be added to the new human services building, which could have an effect on a library building project. J. Geetter will continue to monitor these developments.

Board Members at Council Meetings – One of J. Geetter's goals for the board is to have board members attend town council meetings on a somewhat regular basis, in order to talk about the positive impact the library makes on the community. She stressed the power of narrative over numbers.

Library Focus Group – Another of J. Geetter's goals for the board is to conduct a targeted focus group before the end of the year. After discussing different possible groups, the board decided that a focus group/pop-up library with residents of Heirloom Flats could be a good start. Potential questions will be discussed at the October meeting.

Director's Report

Town Manager Retirement – R. LaMonaca informed the board that Phil Schenck will be retiring from his position as town manager effective March 2019. If a department head committee is formed to assist in the hiring process, R. LaMonaca would like to be a member.

Summer Reading – The library had another successful summer reading program, thanks in large part to the Friends' support for programs and prizes. 265 adults, 239 children, and 52 teens participated this year.

McMahon Wintonbury Mondays – The Monday hours at McMahon Wintonbury appear to be a success, leading to a higher door count and increased computer use.

Online Services – The Hoopla streaming service has been so successful that the library has had to reduce the patron limit per month from 5 to 4, in order to keep spending under control. Due to low usage, the library is cancelling its subscription to the Testing Education Reference Center (TERC). Kanopy, the library's newest streaming service, streamed 31 movies to library users in August.

Library Intern – Ja'Nirah Polk, the library's grant-funded summer intern, will officially complete her internship when she visits Chicago for the final conference. After reviewing the pros and cons of the internship, R. LaMonaca and Allison Wilkos concluded that it may be worth doing again without grant funding, because the library will have more control over how it's structured. One positive of the internship is that it has led to closer ties to the high school. For example, the library is working with school personnel on a resume workshop and interview seminar.

New Public Computers – During the summer, Chris Siloac, Allison Wilkos, and Diah Seccareccia installed all new public computers at both libraries.

Spotlight Sundays – The complete 2018-19 Spotlight Sunday series is set (eight programs in all) and will be fully funded by the Friends.

Don White Programs – The library will host Don White – storyteller, author, musician –for a full day of appearances in Bloomfield on Wednesday, October 17th. Mr. White will give three appearances at the high school: one with interested students in the morning; one with faculty in the afternoon; and one with the public (for about 150 people) at the high school's library in the evening.

Conversations on Race & Racism – With funding from the Bloomfield Interfaith Association, the library will host a three-part Conversations on Race & Racism series in September and October. Dr. Raja Stagers will be the facilitator.

Old Business

Follow-Up to July Discussion on Strategic Planning – As a follow-up to the discussion in July, R. LaMonaca asked Nancy Haynes about the possibility of hiring Tai-Soo Kim again to revisit and update the initial building plan for the current site. Nancy recommended that the library do so, but said it was too early to reconvene the building committee. Roberta was contacted by architect Ryszard Szczypek of Tai-Soo Kim, and they discussed possible concerns for the current site; Ryszard is in the process of gathering more information on the concerns that they discussed.

The board discussed a list of updates that have been done in the past five years to the McMahon Wintonbury Library, and talked about how the information could be beneficial to the council.

New Business

Scheduling – The board worked on possible dates for the focus group at Heirloom Flats, as well as for attendance by board members at upcoming council meetings.

October Meeting Date – R. LaMonaca asked that the board consider moving the October meeting from October 9th to the 16th. **MOTION to move the October meeting to Tuesday, October 16th**; seconded and passed.

Public Comments – There were no public comments.

MOTION to accept the minutes of the June 12, 2018 and July 10, 2018 meetings; seconded and approved.

Additional Business

Board Attendance – The board discussed ways of handling the situation with H. Frydman’s extended absence from board meetings. J. Geetter will draft a letter intended for the Democratic Town Committee.

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 PM; seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Siloac,
Technology & Administrative Coordinator