

DRAFT
Prosser Public Library
Library Board of Directors
December 11, 2018

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

Absent: Harvey Frydman, Ann Leavitt

Quorum present? Yes, 4 of 6

J. Geetter called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

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

Report from the Friends of the Library – The Friends had nothing new to report.

Chairperson's Report

Town Council Presentation – J. Geetter promoted Hoopla and library card sign-ups at a recent town council meeting.

Meeting with Town Manager – At J. Geetter's recent meeting with Phil Schenck, Phil endorsed the idea of the library board creating a resolution to reconstitute the building committee. The board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of potential timelines for a referendum. J. Geetter will begin to draft language for resolution/recommendation. R. LaMonaca will look to set up a meeting with Mayor DeBeatham-Brown; J. Geetter will attend if scheduling permits.

Board Outreach – To follow up on the success of their visit to Heirloom Flats, the board is looking for other avenues to outreach. R. LaMonaca suggested the board use the community page on the library's website as a jumping off point. The board decided to reach out to the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce and ask to attend their January or February meeting.

Director's Report

FY 2019-2020 Budget – P. Schenck asked R. LaMonaca to add \$50,000 to next year's budget for an updated building plan, and \$24 million has been added to the capital improvements budget for a possible new building in 2023. The library's budget hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, April 2nd, at 7:00 PM.

Interview Workshop at Bloomfield High School – On the morning of December 12th, R. LaMonaca and Mara Whitman are taking part in an interview skills workshop at the high school, which will feature mock interviews.

Conversations on Race – Following the success of this fall's three-part Conversations on Race series, the library is working with Dr. Raja Staggers on continuing the series in March-May 2019. Topics have been selected from suggestions by attendees. In line with the series, M. Brackeen-Harris will lead a book discussion on the *The Hate You Give* in April 2019.

Current Events Discussions – The attendees of the recent Constitutional Issues series, hosted by Dr. Roberta Tansman, have asked to continue the program in some way. For the new year, the library and Dr. Tansman are launching a current events series that will use articles in *The Atlantic* magazine as a jumping

off point. The discussions will take place once a month on Monday mornings at 10:30 AM, and magazine articles, possibly through subscription, will be provided.

Town Manager Search – The consultant hired by the town council is hosting sessions with citizens and town boards and commissions for input about the search for a new town manager. R. LaMonaca handed out a list of questions from the consultant to help prepare for the meetings. J. Geetter will attend the meeting for boards.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten – The library will host a 1000 Books Before Kindergarten ceremony on Wednesday, December 12th, at 6:00 PM. R. LaMonaca showed the board the posters that the children will receive, which feature each child holding a favorite book in front of a background based on the book.

Board Guidelines – R. LaMonaca handed out a document from the town clerk that presents federal, state, and municipal guidelines for boards and other agencies.

Fine Policy – The library is having a conversation about the possibility of going fine free. R. LaMonaca gave an exploratory report to Phil Schenck. Fines are already down due to automatic renewals. In accordance with recommendations elicited by the Conversations with Race series, the policy could be a way to take an action step towards equity.

Old Business – The item under old business, “Discuss locations for board outreach,” was discussed during the Chairperson’s Report.

New Business – There was no new business to discuss.

Public Comments – There were no public comments.

MOTION to accept the minutes of the November 13, 2018 meeting; seconded and approved.

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 PM; seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Siloac,
Technology & Administrative Coordinator