

FINAL
Prosser Public Library
Library Board of Directors
September 10, 2019

Attendance: Elizabeth Lane (*Library Director*), Roberta LaMonaca (*Interim 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 5:07 p.m. and officially welcomed Elizabeth Lane, the new library director.

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

Report from the Friends of the Library

Membership Brochure – The Friends’ annual membership brochure will be mailed out to over 9,900 residences in the coming weeks. P. Pearson noted that the number of households in Bloomfield has been going up in recent years. As of June 2019, the Friends counted 476 households as members.

Fall Book Sale – The Friends’ fall book sale will be held October 24th-26th. A discussion ensued about storage limitations and the process of collecting and distributing books.

Chairperson’s Report – The chairperson had nothing new to report.

Director’s Report – Presented by R. LaMonaca

Water Issues – A few water issues affected the library over the summer, including HVAC-related leakage into the director’s office and the adult area. Due to repeated leaks in the children’s storage area, the front patio sealing project was finally completed.

Study Room Make-over – The ground floor study room received a make-over, including new furniture, photographs, lamps, and shades.

Staff Retirements – Loretta Sailor retired in August. Five candidates applied to the internal posting. First round panel interviews have been completed, so second round interviews will need to be scheduled in the weeks ahead. Sue Schwegman is retiring in October; her position has been posted internally and closes on September 18th.

Summer Intern Projects – The board watched three videos that had been produced by the library’s summer intern, Daniel Facey. The internship ended up costing less than anticipated, so the Friends decided to leave the remaining funds with the library, with the expectation that the library will hire an intern again next summer.

Summer Reading – This year’s summer reading program featured the participation of 270 adults and 290 children and teens.

Leisure Services Computer Lab – Due to the library’s experience with handling public computer environments, Chris Siloac and Allison Wilkos configured and installed the new PCs in the computer lab at 330 Park. These PCs are part of a STEM initiative and require special software.

ALICE Meetings – R. LaMonaca updated the board about the United Way meetings concerning ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) families, and the role the library can play in helping those families.

Summer Children’s Events – Roberta thanked the Friends for funding many of the children’s programs during the summer.

Tech Workshop at Duncaster – Allison Wilkos and Carol Lennig held a tech workshop at Duncaster to bring attention to the library’s digital collections. The library will consider doing something similar at Seabury.

Pop-Up Libraries – Pop-up libraries were held at the West Indian celebration on the green and at the dedication of the new human services building.

Genealogy Series – Allison held a well-attended five-part genealogy series during the summer.

Library Survey – R. LaMonaca shared information from a library survey that was created by a town intern and conducted in the winter of 2018. The survey could serve as a useful example to the board as they consider developing a new survey. 250 people participated in the survey, with the majority of participants being over 65 years of age.

Director Transition – R. LaMonaca and E. Lane have been meeting extensively and should wrap up the transition on Wednesday, September 11th.

Old Business – There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

ACLB Conference – J. Geetter stressed that she wanted to make sure the board attended the ACLB conference in November. Details will be addressed as the date of the event moves closer.

Public Comments – There were no public comments.

Additional Business – E. Lane expressed her excitement at getting started, and the library board discussed the upcoming Democratic primary election and the possible impacts it could have on the library board ticket.

MOTION to accept the minutes of the June 11, 2019 meeting; seconded and approved.

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 5:43 PM; seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Siloac,
Technology & Administrative Coordinator