

Goshen Public Library and Historical Society Board of Trustees Meeting

Minutes of December 12, 2011

Regular Meeting

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:30 in the downstairs meeting room. The presiding officer was Ellen-Mary O'Brien.

Acceptance of Agenda.

Further discussion of the GPLHS business plan was postponed until January. Approval of minutes of two prior meetings was also postponed.

Pledge of Allegiance

It was led by Ellen-Mary.

Present:

All seven members of the Board were present: Bernie Marone, Tiffany Milidantri, Norma Nunez-Langlois, Ellen-Mary O'Brien, Keith Roddey, Jim Tarvin, and Frank Wolter. These members constitute a quorum. Also present were Matt Gomm, Director, and Jack Denman, Principal Account Clerk. Unable to attend was Carol Cullen, Board Clerk, due to a death in the family. Condolences were expressed for Carol and her family.

Absent:

None

Privilege of the Floor:

Ellen-Mary circulated a thank-you card from the staff for the Board's contribution to the staff Christmas party.

Treasurer's Report:

Jack presented the November financial reports. There will be no MTA Tax in future years. Following a discussion of the accounts, Jim requested a list of bills paid in December for Board review for the January meeting. (Bernie currently does this for the Board.) Frank said at the next meeting he would provide the Board with his analysis of the legal requirements of Boards re paying of bills. He also questioned the 12% interest the Boards pays as part of its lease of a copy machine. Frank moved acceptance of the treasurer's report. Keith seconded. Unanimous approval.

Director's Report:

Matt reported on the costs of the clean-up after the flooding. He said it looked as if all the costs will be covered by our insurance and grants he has obtained. A gate valve has been determined as the best way to go to prevent the sewer back-up we had this year. The back-up generator purchased by the Friends has arrived and will be installed. DKI will re-route the sump pump drainpipe this week.

Frank suggested that the library have a “Storm Prep” list of steps to take before a storm arrives and that several staff be trained to carry out the responsibilities so there is always someone in the institution who knows what to do. In the recent past, Matt has had to learn by trial and error. Keith said he was glad to see that a class in using e-readers will be offered. Norma asked what happened to the Spanish Story Hour. Jim asked about the small size of the “Donuts and Discussion: group.

Unfinished Business:

There was a discussion of the 2012-2013 proposed budget. Frank recommended that the shortfall be covered from our fund balance rather than a 2% increase in the amount raised by taxes. No vote was taken but several board members spoke in favor of the 2% increase and keeping the fund balance for emergencies and major up-coming projects like exterior painting of the building and possible roof replacement. It was argued that an annual 2% increase will not cover the increasing costs which may be well above 2% in the future.

New Business:

It was moved by Tiffany and seconded by Norma that the existing Sunshine Fund policy in our policy manual be deleted. Motion passed unanimously.

Frank suggested that we annually close the road at the Silesian Park to protect our property rights. Since our lawyer has said that is not necessary, the idea was dropped. Frank asked about trying to “Wi-Fi” the entire village. It appears that that is technically something that would be hard to do.

Proposed Agenda for January meeting:

1. Adopt calendar
2. Discuss business plan
3. Approve three sets of minutes
4. Review December's bills
5. Discuss and possibly approve the budget for 2012-2013

Executive Session:

Tiffany moved and Norma seconded a motion to go into executive session at 8:43 to discuss contractual matters. Motion passed unanimously.

Regular Session:

At 8:58 Tiffany moved and Norma seconded a motion to return to Regular Session. Motion passed unanimously. A motion was then made by Norma and seconded by Keith that the library enter into a contract with the Cornerstone Arts Alliance to fund two Educational Theater projects: a multi-performance play in March about Amelia Earhart, not to exceed \$5000 and at least two performances of Shakespeare in the Park in July, not to exceed \$5000. Motion passed unanimously.

Norma moved and Bernie seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:04. Passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: January 9, 2012 at 7:30 PM in the library.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Tarvin, Board Secretary