

GRAND ISLE FREE LIBRARY

Minutes, April 10, 2017

Trustees Present: Carolyn McCray, Kate O'Neill, Colleen Bushway, Karen Allen and Diane Cota

Trustees Absent: None

Others present: Friends of the Library representative Barb Capen; Town Clerk Melissa Boutin

The meeting opened at 5:59 pm.

- I. Town Clerk Notes. Melissa brought it to the library board's attention that the Merchants Bank checking account would need to have her added as a signer since the account was under the Town of Grand Isle identification number. In addition, Pat Dix and Lucy Gordon would need to be removed from the account as they are no longer members of the board. At that point Colleen moved that the board approve Melissa being added as signer to the Merchants Bank checking account(s); Diane seconded. Motion carried.

The next topic that Melissa raised was regarding the Library board election of officers held at the March meeting. Melissa explained that the election for the office of Treasurer had several flaws and that it was not a valid result under Robert's Rules of Orders.

Melissa raised the following objections to the process, citing Robert's Rules of Order:

- An individual cannot participate in their own nomination process;
- A nominee is not allowed to participate in the voting process for the position for which they have been nominated;
- After the nominees are barred (abstain) from voting, the remaining vote must result in a person carrying the majority of the **entire** board number in order to be valid. As an example, Melissa said that since the library board has five members, even though only three members would be allowed to vote, a successful candidate would need to have three votes in order for the motion to be valid, i.e. majority of five member board would be three or more votes; and
- If there is no successful vote, then the presiding officer remains in place.

Melissa went on to say that the election held in March did not result in a change of Treasurer. The options available would be to hold a re-vote or to increase the board from five to seven members.

Karen expressed that what Melissa had directed with regard to Robert's Rules of Order did not seem to make sense to her (Karen), especially with regard to the nominees not being able to vote. Also, increasing the board size would not necessarily solve the problem that Melissa said existed with the voting process as any number of persons could be nominated for a position but with nominees not being allowed to participate in the voting process, it would be unlikely that any one candidate could carry a majority of the entire board number after excluding the nominees.

Kate directed that we would re-visit the issue of election of board Treasurer at the end of the meeting.

- II. Friends of the Library. Barb Capen attended the meeting as representative of the Friends of the Library. Barb confirmed that the group has raised the funds for a survey of the Grand Isle residents to determine what they want to see in a new library. The Friends Group would like input from the Library Trustees on the survey. Kate plans to attend the next Friends meeting to participate in that discussion. The hope is that the survey can go out to residents during the summer months as that is when the seasonal residents would be available to take part in the survey.

III. Librarian's Report: Kathy presented her report which included information about summer programming and the upcoming availability of e-books and e-audiobooks through One Click Digital. She also notified the board of her upcoming travel plans (August) and requested that she be allowed two weeks off for her trip. Kathy requested that at least some of the current budget line item amount for "cleaning" be reallocated to allow the funds to be available for programming and DVD purchase. The DVD collection has been very popular with library patrons. Kate moved and Diane seconded the motion that the funds in the "cleaning" line of the 2016/2017 budget be made available for programming and DVD purchase. Motion carried.

Kathy continues to work with other Grand Isle County librarians on the possibility of holding a local job fair in the fall of the year. Several organizations are being contacted to inquire as to their participation in the hopes of making the job fair a success. Kathy reiterated that the laptop batteries will need to be replaced as they no longer hold a charge and that it is likely time to look into the purchase of at least one new laptop. Kate made the motion that the library purchase a new laptop; Diane seconded. Motion carried.

The library will be hosting a program on Genealogy on Thursday, April 13th. Kathy noted that the Speaker was not charging for the event. Kate suggested that the library might want to provide a stipend to the speaker for travel and time. Kate made the motion to provide a stipend; Diane seconded. Motion carried.

IV. Secretary's Report: Copies of the Minutes from the March 13, 2017 meeting were available, allowing time for the trustees to review and comment. With regard to the issue that Melissa raised concerning the election of Treasurer, it was noted that while the board needed to look again at that election, the draft March minutes portrayed what actually occurred at the meeting and therefore Kate moved to approve the Minutes as written; Colleen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

V. Treasurer's Report – Treasurer's Report was handed out and reviewed. There was discussion about several of the line items, concerning the amounts already spent or to be spent by end of fiscal year. Kate moved to accept the Treasurer's report as written; seconded by Diane. Motion carried.

VII. New Business.

- a. The Five Year Plan for the library was revisited. The members discussed various items to be included on a new Plan with activities allocated to years 2017-2021. Kate will type up the new plan for discussion at the June meeting.
- b. There has been news that the South Hero Library was successful in their application for a rather large grant recently. It was suggested that the Trustees might want to look into finding a grant writer who could help the Library apply for/ access any available funding.
- c. Kathy mentioned that there are several books behind the Librarian's desk that should be sold. She is hoping to find someone to volunteer for that task, with skills or connections to allow for sale of the books on ebay or another similar site.

VIII. Old Business. The board revisited the issue of Election of Treasurer for the board and discrepancies that Melissa noted in the process from the March election. There was discussion with the two nominees for the position about their interest in the Treasurer position and it did not appear that any election held then would resolve the situation. Karen again expressed her confusion and concern about the dictates that Melissa had provided and cited that she would like some additional time to wrap her head around the process and resulting issue. Karen moved to table the election of Treasurer until the June meeting; Kate seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 12, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Allen, Secretary