

Gloucester Lyceum & Sawyer Free Library
Board of Directors - Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Attendance:

Board Members -Present

Barbara Braver, Vice-
President
Fred Cowan
Meredith Fine, President
Bill Fonvielle
Kecia German
Emily Glover, Clerk
Wendy Quinones
Dana Tobey

Board Members -Not

Present
John Brennan, Treasurer
Scott Memhard

Invitees

Deborah Kelsey, Ex
Officio
Richard Weissman,
Potential Board Member

Guests

Prudence Fish
David Rhineland
William Remsen
Susan Pollock
Ann Rhineland

1. Call the meeting to order at 6:00PM: Meredith Fine
2. **A motion was made by Barbara Braver to accept the minutes of the January 18, 2017 minutes. Seconded by Fred Cowan. Bill Fonvielle abstained. All others in favor.**
3. **A motion was made by Fred Cowan to accept the minutes of the January 4, 2017 minutes. Seconded by Bill Fonvielle. All in favor.**
4. Meredith Fine submitted her resignation as the President of the Board effective at the end of tonight's meeting. **A motion was made by Barbara Braver to accept the resignation of Meredith Fine as President to take effect at the adjournment of this meeting, noting that we are enormously grateful for her commendable service to the Library and for her willingness to remain engaged in other capacities in the days ahead. Wendy Quinones seconded. All in favor.**
5. **A motion was made by Barbara Braver to elect Fred Cowan to serve as interim President of the Board from the adjournment of this meeting until such time as the annual meeting in May. Bill Fonvielle seconded. All on favor.**
6. New Board member discussions. It was discussed that due to resignations as terms there are several openings on the board that should to be filled before the Annual Meeting. It does not seem wise to bring as many as eight (8) new members in at once. It is recommended that a couple of new members be brought in now to ease the transition.
7. Potential new member Rich Weissman, who was able to attend tonight's meeting, brings to the Board many years of BoD experience, including chairing of boards for Beverly Chamber of Commerce, the Red Cross of NE Massachusetts, and the Purchasing Management Association of Boston, a professional association. **A motion was made by Barbara Braver to elect Rich Weissman as a new member of the board to fill the unexpired term of Dan Ottenheimer. Fred Cowan seconded. All in favor.**
8. Also discussed potential new member that was not able to attend tonight's meeting: Marion Sibley. Marion was born and raised in Gloucester, has a PhD in molecular biology and previously worked for New England BioLabs.
9. **A motion was made by Barbara Braver to elect Marion Sibley as a new member of the board to fill the unexpired term of Jerry Ackerman. Kecia German seconded. All in favor.**

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10. By-law revisions: The revisions of the By-Laws have been completed. **A motion was made by Barbara Braver to recommend the changes to the Bylaws to the Corporation. Emily Glover seconded. All in favor.**
11. Treasurer's Report was not reviewed tonight as the Treasurer was not present at the meeting.
12. Discussion and Action items:
 1. State Aid: **A motion was made by Meredith Fine to expend up to \$20,000.00 from State Aid to pay for relocation services. Fred Cowan seconded. All in favor.**
 2. **A motion was made by Meredith Fine to expend up to \$26,000.00 from State Aid to pay for shelving. Fred Cowan seconded. All in favor.**
 3. **A motion was made by Barbara Braver to contribute \$200.00 to Lucille Page Storyteller. Kecia German seconded. All in favor.**
 4. **A motion was made by Wendy Quinones to authorize up to \$27,000.00 for marketing materials Armstrong Brand Consulting for services. Barbara Braver seconded. All in favor.**
 5. Saunders House Stewardship: Meredith Fine will draft a description of stewardship responsibilities.
13. Building Committee:
 1. The new library Building Committee met the morning of January 22, 2017 and had a forthright and open debate regarding the possibilities of renovating the current building versus building a new building. To do a thorough study of renovation of the existing structure would cost approximately \$100,000.00. Fred Cowan commented on the preservation of the shell of the Monell Building could also mean being able to retain the current garden, amphitheater, and beech tree. This plan would also make the Saunders House a fully usable structure.
 2. Fred Cowan also commented on the Cape Ann Tree contract.
 3. Meredith Fine commented on the investment money held by the corporation, who it was donated by (Vrachos & Smogard) and their intentions for the money. If the corporation spends a large portion of the funds on the new building and possibly creating an Endowment Fund for the Saunders House, there will be very little left to use for any expense after the new building is built.
 4. The new library Building Committee was in unanimous agreement that \$100,000.00 would be money well spent to get the answers we need before proceeding.
 5. The study would take approximately four to five months to complete. The corporation will continue to work on fundraising, community meetings, etc.
14. **A motion was made by Fred Cowan to allocate up to \$100,000.00 for the Building Committee to assess the feasibility renovation of the Monell Building and accessory space needed to accommodate the library building program. Wendy Quinones seconded. All in favor.**

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15. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:55PM

Respectfully submitted,
Mary-Kathryn Gray