



Valerie Acklin  
Library Director

2020-2021  
Board of Trustees

Merry Dunn Brown

Richard Carlson

John Mazur

Greg Niforos

Caren Pepper

Christine Pesses

Charles Reed

Christian Rohrs

Susan Schrader

## Draft Minutes of the Groversville Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting December 15, 2020

The Groversville Public Library Board of Trustees held a meeting on December 15, 2020. Present were President Charles “Ren” Reed, Vice-President Merry Dunn-Brown, Director Valerie Acklin, Treasurer Michael Frank, Secretary Christian W. Rohrs, Christine Pesses, Susan Shrader, Richard Carlson, Gregory Niforos, and Michael Mazur.

Mr. Reed called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

Mr. Reed asked if there was any public comment. There was none. At 6:41, Mr. John Mazur took the oath of office as Library Board Trustee. Mr. Reed asked for a motion to approve the November meeting minutes. Ms. Dunn-Brown made a motion, with a second motion made by Mr. Niforos. Mr. Reed asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, the board approved with “Aye.”

Mr. Reed asked Mr. Frank to review the Financial Report for the five-month period ending November 30, 2020. Mr. Frank informed the Trustees that our income for the period was virtually unchanged from the prior year. Mr. Frank informed the Trustees that we had received part of our State Aid in November totaling \$3,958.24. The receipt of \$20,449 this year has basically offset the decline in investment income, the decline in government affiliation income, the decline in fines & miscellaneous income, and the fact that the Friends of the Library have not given us their support check yet. Mr. Frank also informed the Trustees that our expenses for the period were up approximately \$24,400 over last year, due primarily to the new maintenance contracts that we did not have for the building last year. The increase in payroll and related payroll taxes over the prior fiscal year also increased the expenses for the current year. Mr. Frank asked the Board for any questions or comments on the Financial Report. Hearing none, Mrs. Pesses made a motion, seconded by Mr. Carlson, to accept the Financial Report as presented. This was approved all voting “Aye.”

Mr. Frank distributed the Warrants list for December 2020, numbered 2231 through 2250, which was audited by John Blackmon, our claims auditor. Mr. Blackmon found all claims to be legitimate claims for monies due from the Groversville Public Library and recommended payment of same. Mrs. Pesses made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pepper, to approve the Warrants and to have Mr. Frank, our Treasurer, prepare checks for payment of these claims. This was approved all voting “Aye.”

Mr. Niforos delivered the Budget and Finance Committee report. The committee has been working on a draft of the budget proposal for 2020-2022. The full-time salary budget line is down slightly and \$29,000 has been added to the part-time line, which should qualify the GPL for the grant funding. Also, there have been increases to the medical expenses. Under the Books item line, there is a decrease of \$3500.00, but the library has experienced an increase in inter-library loans, so there will be no decrease in services.

Mr. Reed delivered the Friends of the Library report on behalf of Jean La Porta. The Friends conducted two fundraisers this fall: a chicken BBQ which raised \$1200.00 and a basket raffle which raised \$1700.00. The membership report for November includes \$2000.00 and the drive is still going on. For the holidays, the Friends provided all library staff with \$50 Chamber of Commerce Checks. On November 30, several of the Friends spent the morning decorating the Library for Christmas and Hanukkah. Merry Dunn-Brown ordered items from



## Gloversville Public Library

December 2020

Nicole Hauser – Librarian/Head of Adult Services

This month I focused on training Darla and supporting Linda. Linda has taken on many new responsibilities this year, taking over for our retired account clerk and taking on several clerical tasks. She has done so competently and without complaint. Linda has been extremely steadfast and reliable and I think it should be noted that she is doing a commendable job. This month Darla & I focused on ordering through Ingram and using their services for a better workflow. We also touched briefly on the JA reports server and other services the library offers that Darla was not yet aware of. Darla has done a fantastic job stepping into the role of Youth Services Coordinator.

This month we also had a couple of separate individuals let us know that they appreciate the work we are doing providing the crafts and library services: *"...I'd also like to commend you for offering these wonderful crafts, and for the ways you and the library offer a breath of fresh air in these horrific times."* Hats off to all of the staff for doing a wonderful job, especially during these difficult times.

This month we also made the decision to interfile all of the adult holiday books with the regular collection. The titles still have holiday stickers on their spines to make them easy to identify, but will no longer be shelved in a separate location.

The Adult Craft to Go for December was a set of gift tags. It went over very well and the craft for January will be a colorful wrapped loop keychain.

The Jolly Readers book discussion group has been modified until we can meet in person again because of very low zoom meeting attendance. Feel free to join us, the details are below!

### How it works:

- We have chosen a different topic for each month.
- Read 1 book each month in the chosen topic, one we've suggested or one you discover yourself. Then, answer the given question about the book you've read.
- Submit the title, author, and answer of the books you've read monthly, but no later than 4pm on March 31, 2021, to be entered up to 3 times in a drawing to win a \$15 Chamber Check. Submissions can be made by emailing Nicole Hauser at [nhauser@mvl.info](mailto:nhauser@mvl.info) or by dropping off the submissions, with contact info, to the front desk of the Library.

### January

Read a book by Richard Russo.

**Suggested titles:** Fiction: Bridge of Sighs, Mohawk, & Straight Man. Non-Fiction: Elsewhere & The Destiny Thief.

**Question:** If you could ask the author anything, what would it be?

### **February**

Read an historical fiction novel by an author of color.

**Suggested titles:** Fiction: The Moor's Account by Laila Lalami, Shanghai Girls by Lisa See, Tar Baby by Toni Morrison, An Extraordinary Union by Alyssa Cole.

**Question:** What did you find interesting about the time period the novel was set in?

### **March**

Read a book about climate change.

**Suggested titles:** Fiction: The End of the Ocean by Maja Lunde. Non-Fiction: The Future We Choose by Christiana Figueres, The Uninhabitable Earth by David Wallace-Wells, Our Only Home by Dalai Lama XIV.

**Question:** What is one thing you learned about climate change?

Happy Reading!

Peck's for outside, which included greens for the urns and a beautiful wreath to hang over the front entrance. Patty Franco, Ginni Mazur, Nancy Krawczeski, Dick Stack, and Mrs. La Porta were on the decorating committee. Patty Franco did a beautiful job with the Hanukkah decorations.

Since 2013, the Friends of the Library and Mrs. La Porta have been able to donate \$10,000.00 annually towards the library's operating budget and are happy to do so this year. The Friends of the Library would also like to take the opportunity to thank each and every trustee for the time and dedication they have provided during this very difficult year. With that, they would like to extend a very special thank you to Director Valerie Acklin for supporting the Friends' scheduling needs and requests. Mrs. La Porta also would like to remind everyone to renew their Friends' membership for 2020 if they have not done so yet, and the December 2020 issue of the Friends' Newsletter is at the printers and should be mailed by the end of the month.

Mr. Reed asked Mr. Carlson for a report from the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Mr. Carlson indicated that there were no pressing issues, other than the loss of the parking lot from the old county probation building.

Mrs. Dunn-Brown reported that the Outreach Committee had not met in quite some time.

Mrs. Shrader and Mr. Niforos reported on behalf of the Personnel Committee. The Director's Evaluation was updated and added is a scale on which a director should be evaluated.

Mrs. Pesses delivered the Policy Committee report. There had not been a meeting; however, Ms. Acklin noted they were working on a Pandemic Policy and, with that, MVLS is working on boilerplate language they would require everyone to use regarding such policies.

Mr. Reed asked for an update from the Program Committee. Ms. Acklin reported that there had been a dip in participation to which she ascribes "Zoom fatigue." However, the GPL is pleased to see some participation in programs and they plan to reach out to more in the future.

Mr. Rohrs reported on behalf of the Public Relations Committee. There had not been a meeting; however, the next meeting is scheduled for December 17 and would like members of the Outreach Committee to attend.

Ms. Acklin delivered the Director's Report. It has been a busy month and the shelving rearrangements have not yet taken place. She requested that library close Monday, January 4, in order to conduct the moving of shelves and books. Ms. Pepper made a motion to close, followed with a second motion made by Mrs. Pesses. The board approved the closure with a vote of "Aye." Ms. Acklin also reported that her and Sonny Duross's civil service status had changed from provisional to permanent titles.

Ms. Acklin requested a motion for Mr. Frank to issue a check to cover 50% of the cost for the signage for the Recognition Wall and room names. Mrs. Pesses made a motion, with a second motion made by Ms. Dunn-Brown. The board approved with a vote of "Aye."

In his President's Report, Mr. Reed reported it has been a very quiet month and wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Mr. Reed asked if there was any new business, to which it was reported there was none.

At 8:15 PM, Mr. Reed asked for a motion to enter executive session. Mrs. Pesses made a motion, with a second motion made by Ms. Pepper.

At 8:29 PM, Mrs. Pesses made a motion to leave executive session, with a second motion made by Mr. Carlson.

Upon leaving executive session, the following motion(s) were resolved:

Motion to convert previously created part-time library clerk position to part-time maintenance worker with a minimum of 17.5 hours per week. Mr. Niforos made a motion, with a second made by Mrs. Pesses. The board approved with a vote of "Aye".

At 8:30 PM, Mr. Reed asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Pesses made a motion, with a second motion made by Mr. Niforos.

Respectfully submitted,

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Christian W. Rohrs