

**James Prendergast Library Association
Board of Trustees
Minutes of the Meeting Held on April 2, 2020
Via Teleconferencing (to be recorded as March 2020 meeting)**

President, Joni Blackman called to order the Board of Trustees Meeting at 5:15PM.

Present: Micki McCray, Maggie Scorse, Lori Fabritius, Mike Corey, Ned Lindstrom, Lynn Warner, Cassie Blakeslee, Mary Zdrojewski and Rob Hewitt
Absent: Frank Corapi, and Dan Hickman

Staff present: Annie Greene, Janet Mescall and Tress Williams

Public present – 1 (Dennis Phillips – Post Journal)

1. Consent Agenda – A motion was made (Maggie Scorse/Lynn Warner), passed and carried to accept the agenda as listed and to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.
2. 259 Options

Attorney, Robert Schofield presented the Board with 3 options regarding our pursuit of 259 funding:

1. One option would be for the library board to continue with the planned 259-vote once public gatherings are allowed. He said library officials are asking for less public financing this year, \$350,000, compared to the \$850,000 it asked for during the failed 259-vote in 2016.
2. Another option discussed by Schofield would be for the trustees to create an association library district. He said it would be very similar to how the library already functions. However, instead of a board appointed by other trustees, members would be voted on by residents who live in the library's service area. He added any member of the public in the service area would be allowed to run for a board position if they followed the necessary steps to be eligible Per Mr. Schofield, "This would allow residents to be more involved in chosen a board."
3. The third option discussed by Schofield is for the library association to recharter as a public library district. He said the option would create a public library that serves the boundaries of the Jamestown Public Schools District. He added that a public library district would also have an elected board and residents would vote on public funding for the library.

When asked which option he would suggest we follow, he explained that due to the timing issues involved (vote would be held in May or June – depending on school schedule) and the shutdown of virtually everything due to the Corona virus, which is playing havoc with everyone's ability to meet and schedule the vote, he would recommend we try to hold the 259 vote as we had planned with the understanding that if passed, we would convert to a public elected Board within the year. This would get us our funding and eliminate the community argument that the voters have no control over the Board and thus the use of funds approved.

ED Annie Greene suggested we all take time to process this suggestion and we will discuss it at the next meeting.

- a) Vote Progress Update – Campaign Manager, Cassie Blakeslee, postponed her report citing the need for all Board members to process the options laid out by Mr. Schofield.
- b) Next Vote Volunteer Meeting – The meeting was to be held 3/25 but was postponed due the Library being closed due to the Corona virus. Once we are cleared to open to the public, the meeting will be rescheduled.

3. Public comment/questions via email - None

4. Director's Report/Statistics -

Annie Greene (ED) noted that the report had been sent to all Board members prior to the meeting and asked if there were any questions. She noted highlights included receiving NYS Assemblyman Andrew Goodell's public support for the Library; local author Isaiah Rashad presented an author talk and promoted his material; daily posts on our social media totaled 55,673 in the month of February compared to just 392 in February 2019; 108 programs were held with attendance of 1390 people; and volunteer hours totaled 34.25.

5. Fundraising Report –

- a) Book Bags – book bags with the JPL logo were purchased and will be offered for sale.
- b) Southern Tier Brewery Fundraiser April 3rd 6-9pm – has been postponed due to the Stay at Home policy implemented due to the Corona virus.
- c) Race Update – The Run for Literacy has been cancelled due to the Corona virus/Stay at Home policy. A social media “Read In” event will replace the race on May 9th. Details will follow. All parties who have donated to the Race are being contacted and asked if they would like to apply their donations to the new event or have them returned.

6. Treasurer's Report –

Annie Greene, ED, presented the financials for March. She indicated that all areas were within expected ranges. Revenue for the month was \$136,661.76 (19.45%) and expenses were \$61,674.18 (14.33%). A motion was made (Ned Lindstrom/Rob Hewitt), passed and carried to accept and file said report. Treasurer, Mike Corey, noted that due to the extreme market volatility (Corona virus related) we should be prepared to lose approximately 20% of our investment balance. He stated once the market stabilizes, we should see an increase in our funds.

7. New Business –

- a) NYS Library Annual Report –
A motion was made (Cassie Blakeslee/Lori Fabritius), passed and carried to accept and file the James Prendergast Library Association Annual Report for Public and Association Libraries-2019 as presented by ED Annie Greene.
- b) Corona Virus Update –
ED Annie Greene suggested we continue to follow the Jamestown Public School open/close schedule regarding remaining closed due the Corona pandemic. As of now, public schools will remain closed until at least April

20th. Staff is continuing to work from home, focusing on social media, JPL website and training. 3 personnel are working at the Library – 1 bookkeeper and 2 cleaning persons (working opposite shifts).

President Joni Blackman and ED Annie Greene discussed the Payroll Protection Program offered through the Small Business Administration/Federal Government that will award grants to help cover payroll expenses to those businesses that continue to pay their staff over the next 8 weeks even if the business is closed. A motion was made (Ned Lindstrom/Lori Fabritius), passed and carried authorizing ED, Annie Greene, to apply for the Payroll Protection Program grant in the amount she determines is appropriate for JPL.

8. Unfinished Business - NONE

9. Next Meeting/April Board Meeting –

It was determined that since our bylaws only require 10 Board meetings per year, due to the Corona virus/stay at home/Library closure, there will be no April meeting. The next meeting will be Thursday, May 21st. Place and time to be determined closer to that date.

A motion was made (Lynn Warner/Maggie Scorse), passed and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Micki McCray

Secretary