

ALBERT WISNER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Board of Trustees Annual Re-Organization Meeting

July 19, 2021 at 8:15 PM

Minutes

PRESENT: Board Members: Regina Wittosch, Mark Damia, Barbara Johansen, Nora Aman-Gurvich, Mary Berrigan

Director: Lisa Laico

Absent: Wayne Rossi, Colleen Larsen

I. Meeting called to order by Regina Wittosch at 8:15 pm

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Swearing-In of Elected Trustees (done at July 19, 2022 Regular Board Meeting)

Barbara Johansen took the oath as trustee to serve a five year term (2022-2027)

IV. Election of Officers:

- A) **A motion was made by Regina Wittosch to appoint Mark Damia as President;** Nora Aman-Gurvich seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows: Mark Damia – Yes; Regina Wittosch – Yes; Nora Aman-Gurvich – Yes; Mary Berrigan – Yes; Barbara Johansen - Yes. The motion was approved.
- B) **A motion was made by Regina to appoint Nora Aman-Gurvich as Vice President;** Mark Damia seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows: Mark Damia – Yes; Regina Wittosch – Yes; Nora Aman-Gurvich – Yes; Mary Berrigan – Yes; Barbara Johansen - Yes. The motion was approved.
- C) **A motion was made by Nora Aman-Gurvich to appoint Regina Wittosch as Financial Officer;** Mark Damia seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows: Mark Damia – Yes; Regina Wittosch – Yes; Nora Aman-Gurvich – Yes; Mary Berrigan – Yes; Barbara Johansen - Yes. The motion was approved.
- D) **A motion was made by Mary Berrigan to appoint Colleen Larsen as Secretary;** Nora Aman-Gurvich seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows: Mark Damia – Yes; Regina Wittosch – Yes; Nora Aman-Gurvich – Yes; Mary Berrigan– Yes; Barbara Johansen - Yes. The motion was approved.

President (also ex-officio on AWPL Foundation Board) – Mark Damia

Vice President – Nora Aman-Gurvich

Financial Officer – Regina Wittosch

Secretary – Colleen Larsen

V. Committee Assignments

The Board chose the following Standing Committee assignments. Mark Damia is an ex-officio member of all committees. Lisa Laico sits on all Board committees as Library Director.

- A) **Buildings and Grounds:** Chair-Regina, Barbara Johansen
- B) **Financial:** Chair-Regina Wittosch, Nora Aman-Gurvich
- C) **Personnel:** Chair- Colleen Larsen, Mary Berrigan
- D) **Community Relations:** Chair-Nora Aman-Gurvich, Mary Berrigan and Barbara Johansen

VI. Appointments:

- A) **Motion to appoint Ben Gailey**, Jacobowitz and Gubits LLP, Attorney of Record was made by Mark Damia; Mary Berrigan seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows: Mark Damia – Yes; Regina Wittosch – Yes; Nora Aman-Gurvich – Yes; Mary Berrigan – Yes; Barbara Johansen - Yes. The motion was approved.
- B) **Motion to appoint Nugent and Haeussler**, Independent Auditor was made by Nora Aman-Gurvich; Mark Damia seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows: Mark Damia – Yes; Regina Wittosch – Yes; Nora Aman-Gurvich – Yes; Mary Berrigan – Yes; Barbara Johansen - Yes. The motion was approved.
- C) **Motion to appoint Joy Palazzola**, Treasurer and Bookkeeper was made by Barbara Johansen; Mary Berrigan seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows: Mark Damia – Yes; Regina Wittosch – Yes; Nora Aman-Gurvich – Yes; Mary Berrigan – Yes; Barbara Johansen - Yes. The motion was approved.
- D) **Motion to appoint BPS Financial Services**, Employee Benefits Firm by Mary Berrigan; Mark Damia seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows: Mark Damia – Yes; Regina Wittosch – Yes; Nora Aman-Gurvich – Yes; Mary Berrigan – Yes; Barbara Johansen - Yes. The motion was approved.
- E) **Motion to appoint Siobhan O’Riordan**, Recording Secretary was made Mark Damia; Barbara Johansen seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows: Mark Damia – Yes; Regina Wittosch – Yes; Nora Aman-Gurvich – Yes; Mary Berrigan – Yes; Barbara Johansen - Yes. The motion was approved.

VII. Establish Monthly Meeting Dates and Times:

Motion to establish monthly meeting dates/times was tabled until next month's Regular meeting. More discussion needed on moving the meeting date/time to the 4th Tuesday of every month.

VIII. Library Board By-Laws

Library By-Laws were reviewed.

IX. Library Boards Annual Affirmation and Disclosure Statements

Board members were given Affirmation and Disclosure Statements which they have completed and signed. The Statements will be kept on file in the Library office.

X. New Business:

A. Motion to approve Investment Policy:

The Board reviewed the Investment Policy and did not make any changes.

Nora Aman-Gurvich made a motion to approve the Library's Investment Policy; Mark Damia seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows: Mark Damia – Yes; Regina Wittosch – Yes; Nora Aman-Gurvich – Yes; Mary Berrigan – Yes; Barbara Johansen - Yes. The motion was approved.

B. Motion to approve Resolution to override 2% tax cap for FY 2023/2024 Budget:

Whereas, the adoption of the FY 2023/2024 budget for the Albert Wisner Public Library may require a tax levy increase that exceeds the tax cap imposed by state law as outlined in General Municipal Law Section 3-c adopted in 2011; and

Whereas, General Municipal Law Section 3-c expressly permits the library board to override the tax levy limit by a resolution approved by a vote of sixty percent of qualified board members; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of the Albert Wisner Public Library voted and approved to exceed the tax levy limit for FY 2023/2024 by at least the sixty percent of the board of trustees required by state law on July 19, 2022.

Barbara Johansen made a motion to approve a Resolution to override the 2% tax cap; Mary Berrigan seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows: Mark Damia – Yes; Regina Wittosch – Yes; Nora Aman-Gurvich – Yes; Mary Berrigan – Yes; Barbara Johansen - Yes. The motion was approved.

XI. Public Comments: None.

XIII. Old Business:

A. The Board has elected not to designate a newspaper of record for FY 2022-2023. A letter stating this decision will be sent to The Warwick Dispatch, The Warwick Advertiser, and The Times Herald Record.

XV. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the Annual Reorganization Board Meeting at 9:12 pm was made by Regina Wittosch; the motion was seconded by Mary Berrigan. The Board voted as follows: Mark Damia – Yes; Regina Wittosch – Yes; Nora Aman-Gurvich – Yes; Mary Berrigan – Yes; Barbara Johansen - Yes. The motion was approved.

Motions:

1. To appoint Mark Damia as President
2. To appoint Nora Aman-Gurvich as Vice-President
3. To appoint Regina Wittosch as Financial Officer
4. To appoint Colleen Larsen as Secretary
5. To appoint Ben Gailey of Jacobowitz and Gubits LLP as Attorney of Record
6. To appoint Nugent and Haeussler as Independent Auditor
7. To appoint Joy Palazzola as Treasurer and Bookkeeper
8. To appoint BPS Financial Services as Employee Benefits Firm
9. To appoint Siobhan O’Riordan as Recording Secretary
10. To approve the Library’s Investment Policy
11. To approve a Resolution to override the 2% tax cap for FY 23/24
12. To adjourn the Reorganization Meeting at 9:12pm

Recorded by Siobhan O’Riordan on July 19, 2022 and submitted by Siobhan O’Riordan on July 25, 2022.