

3/21/2022 APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING

John Moriarty – 5:40 pm – Reappointment to the Library Board of Trustees

John Moriarty is requesting reappointment as a regular member of the Library Board of Trustees to a term expiring at the end of March, 2025.

Currently, there are two vacant alternate member positions and one vacant regular member position available on the Library Board of Trustees.

Mr. Moriarty's application for reappointment is attached.

5:40 pm

Board and Commission Application Form

Select the Board, Commission, or Committee applying for Library Trustee

I am seeking appointment or reappointment as a: Full member

Personal Information

First Name John

Last Name Moriarty

Address P. O. Box 156

City Laconia

State NH

Zip Code 03247

Home Phone Number *Field not completed.*

Cell Phone Number 603.455.2084

Work Phone Number *Field not completed.*

Email Address John@MyMoriarty.Net

Please indicate below which items of personal information (if any) you DO NOT want released to the public *Field not completed.*

Residency Information

I reside in Ward 4

Length of Residency in City 29 years though I am a fourth generation Laconia business man

Are you a registered voter Yes

Are you currently serving on No
other City Boards,
Commissions, or
Committees?

Conflicts of Interest

Per RSA 673:7 and Chapter 5, Section 5-20 of the City Ordinances, a potential conflict of interest may exist if serving on more than one Board or Commission, as follows: Only one Planning Board member may be a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment; either one appointed member or one ex-officio member of the Planning Board may be a member of the Conservation Commission; either one appointed member or one ex officio member may be a member of the Heritage Commission; a member of the Putnam Fund may not serve on the Trustee of the Trust Funds, and a member of the Trustee of the Trust Funds may not serve as a member of the Putnam Fund. For questions regarding conflicts of interest please contact the City Manager's Office at 527-1270, or email to NBrown@Iaconianh.gov

Please list below any experiences, skills and/or qualifications which you feel would especially suit you for this position, and your reasons for applying

City Council first appointed me to the library board twenty-one (21) years ago. Prior to my first term on this board, I served for two years on the library's "Building Exploratory Committee" and the Library Technology Committee. My tenure on this board far exceeds that of any other library trustee, or any staff member including the soon to retire, Library Director. This firsthand institutional knowledge seems to be valuable to all the stakeholders as we plan our paths forward.

Have you ever run a business?

I have owned and run several businesses that cross different industry lines. I have managed our investments, run our payrolls (personally) including all payroll taxes, auditing, and compliance. Customer retention, marketing, and promotions have all been part of my daily routines. Though educated in natural sciences, mathematics, economics, and music, I tend to be most in my element when I operate hands-on and not just in a managerial capacity. Serving as a library trustee is not about book selection; we have a professional staff who should make those decisions. As I see it, the roles of a library trustee are to: first, protect the intentions of our benefactors and their bequests to the library; second, to oversee the appropriate development and expenditure of the library's City Budget; third to set policy, and fourth, to manage the library director. It is probably as important to know what is similar to and different from running a business compared with a library when providing stewardship to our public library.

What would you do to increase library usage/# of visitors?

The largest challenge that we have is that new residents to our city, those with young children in particular, are frightened away by some of the activities of our homeless population inside the library. Though our staff does an outstanding job of trying to keep up with reporting overdose problems, public drinking on premise, and other inappropriate behaviors, we are poignantly aware of the impact this has on our patrons. Statements from parents to their children often include language such as "remember, we are not at the safe library today" (comparing us to nearby community libraries) and are all too familiar to our ears. I am proud of the work our staff does at the library and I only bring it up now because an official motion passed by the Board of Library Trustees, has instructed me to bring this to the attention of City Hall and City Departments.

What new, different programs/services would you offer?

There are too many for me to enumerate on this application. Irrespective of this question, here are what I see the priorities of the library board should be:

- * hire a new director
- * hire a new children's librarian
- * update the children's room (protect it from overdose events)
- * expand the teen room (this is an excellent problem to have as teens are the most difficult demographic to reach)
- * develop a "Maker Space" in the former reference department

That is an ambitious list to say the least.

What do you think is the mission of a public library?

I believe we have a fairly good Mission Statement for the library and I see no reason to update it from a functional standpoint. It articulates that the library is to serve the educational and entertainment needs of our patrons from an information standpoint (I am paraphrasing here). The fact that our mission statement is inclusive of all ages from preschool through post retirement is a great testament to relevance of our mission statement.

How do you envision the Library serving the community moving forward?

The library must be adaptive to the changing needs of our community. Even though I have a substantial technical education and experiences, my personal preference is for good old fashioned bound books, printed on paper. Having said that, it is important to realize that many residents may prefer more modern forms of media. As we look toward the future the time might be right to allow our library to experiment with newer technologies -- of course without sacrificing the tried and true.

Electronic Signature Agreement I agree.

Electronic Signature John Moriarty

Date 3/7/2022

Oath of Office

Please note that upon being appointed to any Board or Commission, applicants are required to be sworn in at the City Clerk's Office and sign an oath.

Questions?

For general questions regarding this form please contact Nancy Brown in the City Manager's Office, 527-1270, or email NBrown@laconiah.gov

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)