



Job Title: Member of the Great River Regional Library Board of Trustees

Approved: May 10, 2011; reviewed April 18, 2017 & March 16, 2021

Authority: Minnesota Revised Statutes section 134.20

Summary: Members of the Great River Regional Library Board of Trustees provide direction and vision for the organization.

This job description is a guide outlining the responsibilities of GRRL Board of Trustees members. The GRRL Board reserves the right to revise job responsibilities as needed to conform to Minnesota law and the most current version of the GRRL Bylaws.

Basic Responsibilities of GRRL Board of Trustees:

- Determine mission, vision and purpose. Also periodically review the mission and vision statements to ensure they accurately reflect the library's goals and purposes given the demands of the patrons served.
- Adopt bylaws and policies as appropriate to fulfill the regional library purpose.
- Work to ensure adequate financial resources are secured for the organization to fulfill its mission, vision and purpose.
- Protect assets and provide proper financial oversight by developing the annual budget and ensuring that proper financial controls are in place.
- Select, support and evaluate the director. The board should employ the best qualified person for the position of director. The board should ensure that the director has the moral and professional support he or she needs to further the goals of the organization.
- Ensure effective planning by actively participating in overall strategic plan process and monitoring the plan's goals.
- Ensure legal compliance and ethical integrity. The board is ultimately responsible for adherence to legal standards and ethical norms.
- Enhance the organization's public standing. The board should clearly articulate the organization's accomplishments to the public and work to garner support from the community.
- Build a competent board. All boards have a responsibility to articulate prerequisites for candidates, orient new members, and periodically and comprehensively evaluate their own performance.

Individual GRRL Board Member Responsibilities:

- Attend board and committee meetings and functions, such as special events.
- Be informed about the organization's mission, services, policies, and programs.
- Review agenda and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings.
- Serve on board committees and offer to take on special assignments or appointments.
- Make a personal financial contribution to the organization as personal situations allow.
- Suggest possible nominees to the board who can make significant contributions to the work of the board and the organization.
- Keep up-to-date on significant developments in the library field.
- Follow conflict-of-interest and confidentiality policies.
- Refrain from making special or burdensome individual requests of the staff except through the director. Adhere to appropriate board member/staff roles.
- Assist the board in carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities, such as reviewing the organization's annual financial statements.

Personal characteristics desired for GRRL Board Members:

- Ability to: listen, analyze, think clearly and creatively, work well with people individually and in a group.
- Willing to: prepare for and attend board and committee meetings, ask questions, take responsibility and follow through on a given assignment, contribute personal and financial resources in a generous way according to circumstances, open doors in the community, and evaluate oneself.
- Develop certain skills if you do not already possess them, such as to: cultivate and solicit funds, cultivate and recruit board members and other volunteers, read and understand financial statements, and learn more about the substantive program areas of the library.
- Possess: honesty, sensitivity to and tolerance of differing views, a friendly, responsive, and patient approach, community-building skills, personal integrity, and a sense of humor.