

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library
January 11, 2021, Via Zoom Conference**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held on December 14, 2020 via ZOOM conference as per executive order of the NYS Governor's office, responding to COVID-19 social distancing regulations.

The following participants were in attendance: Margot Milberg, President; Felicia Block, VP; Gary Katz, Financial Officer; Laura Liu, Secretary; Alan Bey, Trustee; Elyse Klayman, Trustee; Svati Shashank, Trustee; Jordan Copeland, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Shira Ronis Barkoe, Asst. Director; Rochelle Waldman, Village Trustee Liaison; Michelle Lichtenberg, FOSL. Trustee Deb Morel was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm.

Approval of Minutes of the December 14th Meeting: Motion was made by Svati Shashank and seconded by Alan Bey to approve the December meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved.

Friends of the Scarsdale Library Report: Michelle reported that it had been a relatively quiet month for the Friends since the last fundraising drive in December. The next meeting of the Friends' Board is scheduled for early February. The Friends hope that the pandemic situation will improve and make it possible to have an outdoor event in the spring. Michelle reiterated the Friends' commitment to meeting the fundraising needs of the Library.

Director's Report: In addition to her written report, Beth reported that the window damages in the Children's Room by the squirrel were being assessed and she expected to have quotes on the repair costs soon. Beth also reported that the CCRB (Council to Combat Racism and Bias) had completed three listening sessions from three different groups. The Council's next step is to invite residents from the broader community to speak on the topic in its fourth and final listening session. Then the Council will identify issues and propose some actionable items to make improvements.

Gary suggested that we invite the Library's department heads to attend Board meetings on a rotating basis and talk about their departments' work. This would allow the Board to better understand each functional area and its recent operations. It would be especially valuable to the Financial Officer.

President's Report: Margot happily reported that both "*The Scarsdale Inquirer*" and *Scarsdale10583.com* ran enthusiastic feature articles on the Library with multiple pictures. Both pieces raved about the thoughtfully designed functionality and esthetics of the new facility. The *Inquirer* ran a big spread on its cover featuring Beth in the new space. The local media's excitement reflected the general sentiments of the community that the project was extremely

well done. Both media outlets also ran detailed interviews with author Gish Jen and promoted her talk this coming Thursday.

Elyse and Alan will complete their five-year term on the Board this spring. As is customary, they will serve on the Nominating Committee for the next few months. Officer positions that need to be filled or reconfirmed are Vice President, Financial Officer and Secretary. There will be two vacancies on the Board. All Board members are encouraged to suggest names. A few factors to be mindful of are: (1) Quaker Ridge and Greenacres will not be represented by existing Board members next year. (2) People with elementary school children, or even preschool children, are not represented. (3) Someone with a diverse background can be a plus.

Rochelle mentioned that as part of her responsibility on the Personnel Committee, she would review applications for Village boards and councils. She looks forward to approving the Library Board's new nominations. She also encouraged Elyse and Alan to consider joining other boards in the Village.

The cafe had been open for almost a month. Margot encouraged all trustees to continue to support them and spread the word about Apiary with friends and on social media. Beth is meeting with Apiary tomorrow, and will find out more about how they are doing.

Proposed FY2021-2022 Budget: Beth walked the Board through the proposed 2021-2022 operating budget. This year the Village asked all department heads to prepare three scenarios, the regular budget, then with a 5% reduction and 10% reduction.

Beth explained that the proposed budget was based on a full time headcount of 22. A couple of the positions were still open but expected to be filled soon. The budget presentation would be during the week of Jan.25th. Margot encouraged Board members to attend and show support.

Gary Katz made a motion to approve the proposed 2021-2022 budget, together with 5% and 10% reduction scenarios. Felicia Block seconded. The proposed budget was approved unanimously.

Opening Exhibition Update: Elyse reported that the indoor exhibit was still in waiting mode due to the pandemic. The outdoor art looked great. Tanya Singer graciously agreed to keep an eye on the yarn sculptures and keep them in good shape. The signage for the flowers in front of the Library should be ready this week.

Communications Committee Report: Felicia reported that the Committee previewed the long video. The next phase of final edits and the short trailer would take 2-3 weeks. The committee planned to post them once they were ready. Some imagery including the aerial drone shots looked great.

The press release on the opening exhibition focused on the outdoor pieces. Teya already sent it to local media. The Library plans to promote it more actively after the author talk on Thursday.

Felicia is also working on the press release for the Youth Art Show.

Laura Liu gave the Board a brief update about the upcoming author talk on January 14 with SHS alum Gish Jen with English teacher Jennifer Rosenzweig. Online registration was going well with many attendees already registered.

Demonstration of new website: Shira walked the Board through the new website. Shira highlighted that the menu on the homepage was very intuitive and user-friendly. Another great feature was that the website contents could be updated dynamically. Once an item was updated in one place, it was automatically updated everywhere. This made it much easier to change things on the backend.

Shira continues to work on improving the site, putting up more photos and other content. Board meeting minutes and Library policies have been posted on the website.

The Board congratulated Shira and her team for building this fantastic new website. Both its aesthetics and functionality are excellent. It shows that the Library is now firmly in a new, tech savvy phase. Especially when people can't go to the Library in person, the new website will get them really excited and deliver a superior user experience. The Board thanked Shira and her team for their dedication and hard work that has paid off.

Transfer of the Children's Room Endowment: Gary Katz made a motion to transfer 10% of principal (\$26,572) of the Children's Room Endowment to the Library Capital Campaign Account. Felicia Block seconded. The transfer was approved unanimously.

Margot adjourned the meeting at 8:52pm.