

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library
December 14, 2020, 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; Deb Morel, Trustee; Svati Shashank, Trustee; Jordan Copeland, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Shira Ronis Barkoe, Asst. Director; Rochelle Waldman, Village Trustee Liaison; Mona Longman, FOSL.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

Approval of Minutes of the November 9th Meeting: Jordan Copeland made the correction that the "glass flowers" should be "ceramic and glass flowers" in the "Photo and Art Exhibition Update" section. Motion was made by Deb Morel and seconded by Alan Bey to approve the November meeting minutes with this edit, which were unanimously approved.

Friends of the Scarsdale Library Report: Mona reported that the FOSL had received the last batch of checks pledged from the Capital Campaign. Also, at the year-end tally, funds raised in 2020 were on par with prior years. The FOSL commended the Campaign Committee for its hard work and achievements. The next fundraising drive is planned for late January to early February. Patrons told the FOSL that they appreciated the Library for continuing contactless services during the pandemic. The FOSL has started to plan a spring planting day event; included in the plan is a tree honoring Matthew Steves.

Director's Report: In addition to her written report, Beth reported that the lights in the parking lot and the HVAC dampers and filters would be installed soon. The 2021-2022 Budget will be a big project for Beth for the next two months. The current fiscal year ends on May 31st, 2021. This year's operations were split between the Loft and 54 Olmsted Road. Some hirings were delayed. As a result, we will have significant savings. The next fiscal year is hard to budget because there are a lot of unknowns, including potential retirements. The budget presentation is scheduled on January 25th via Zoom, open to the public. Board members are encouraged to join the meeting.

In the Westchester Library System, few if any libraries are still doing browsings. Some libraries had to shut down temporarily due to staff infections. Our current operating hours seems to be sufficient. We have not received any requests to extend current hours. Maybe because more people are working from home, it is easier for them to come during open hours. Patrons often express thanks when they pick up holds.

Felicia commented that it was very helpful to have social media traffic data included in the Director's Report. It was an important step forward to expand social media presence. She thanked Teya for this work.

President's Report: Margot reported that the Apiary at the Library opened for takeout service. She encouraged Board members to help spread the word and support the business. The *Inquirer* did a photo op of Mayor Samwick when he stopped by the Library to pick up some books together with lunch. Margot also reported that a tour for the BOE will be scheduled.

Margot thanked Board members for their dedicated work during the year. Some of the Board's recent work included: Elyse spent many hours working with the artists and curator of the Photography and Art Exhibit and writing a press release on it; Margot, Elyse and Jordan planted the ceramic and glass poppies in front of the Library; Felicia worked on the banners, press releases and videos communicating the re-opening to the community; and Laura worked on the Virtual Youth Art Show and the Author Talk by Gish Jen.

Library Opening Committee Report: We postponed the ribbon cutting due to the recent increases in infection cases. The Library is open for services but people are not able to go inside. There was sadness in the community that we could not celebrate the reopening in a meaningful way. We will plan for more of a celebration after the vaccine's rollout makes it safe to gather. In the meantime, we will continue working on communications and produce positive PR pieces like the press releases and the Mayor's photo op.

Photo and Art Exhibition Update: It is very disappointing that the indoor show had to be postponed. The outdoor pieces look amazing. The one hundred ceramic and glass poppies and the glass sculpture *The Keepers* are by Simone Kestelman. The fiber art piece *Knit Together* was created by Tanya Singer and Sarah Divi. This was a wonderfully uplifting project that brought color, joy and hope to the community.

Elyse thanked Jordan for helping with the planting and mentioned that he would be interviewing the artists shortly. She also thanked Margot for her tremendous work from planning to the physical planting of the poppies.

Communications Committee Report: Felicia reported that the students had finished taking video footage of the new space last week. They were working on editing both videos, a 30-60 second "trailer", and a 5-6 minute video with interviews. The plan was to release them before the end of the year to usher in the new year. Felicia thanked Beth and the staff for making the on-site shoot possible.

The banners are still up. Felicia planned to check with Village Hall to see whether we could leave them up for longer. The mayor's photo op would go to *the Inquirer*, and probably also to 10583 and social media.

For now, communications focus on our services rather than the space. When the situation improves, we will move to incremental phases of opening, from contactless pickups to tours, then browsing, then eventually to have events in the programming rooms.

Felicia asked about the new website. Shira explained that the upgrades applied to both the backend and the frontend. Beth suggested that we conduct a work session to preview the new website together. The January Board meeting needs to focus on reviewing the budget.

Margot adjourned the meeting at 8:29pm.