

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library May 10, 2021, Via Zoom Conference

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held on May 10, 2021 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: Felicia Block, President; Laura Liu, Financial Officer; Svati Kania Shashank, Secretary; Jordan Copeland, Trustee; Pedro Ladislau, Trustee; Margot Milberg, Trustee; Deb Morel, Trustee; Ekta Sahni, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Justin Arest, Village Trustee Liaison; Mona Longman, FOSL.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm.

Approval of Minutes of the April 12, 2021 Meeting: Motion was made by Deb Morel and seconded by Margot Milberg to approve the April meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved.

Friends of the Scarsdale Library (FOSL) Report: Mona congratulated everyone for Friday's ribbon cutting. She reported that the FOSL Board is busy getting ready for Saturday's spring event. Over 100 families are signed up. The last shift is completely booked up. There is some room in 10 am shift and more room in 12 noon shift. Nancy was going to deliver color coded placards to the village today. It was noted that all Library Board members who could sign up have done so. Parking is available on Brewster Road as well as the gravel lot in the High School (for volunteers). Masks are required for everyone.

Director's Report: A seven-page report was circulated along with the meeting materials. The Ribbon Cutting was successful. Beth is moving forward with the Assistant Director search. She had a good interview today. She will continue to collect resumes through the end of this week and is hoping to decide before her vacation, or soon after.

Beth will send an email to her department heads about the next stage of reopening (hoping to move to next phase on June 1). They have started recruiting for clerks and part-time librarians. We will have people in library for regular library hours, and then will talk about hybrid in-person programs. They are figuring out seating to accommodate social distancing. When we really open up, we will probably eliminate appointments.

Beth would also like to finalize the meeting room policy in the next meeting. Alan, Deb and Svati were on the Policy Committee. Ekta may join now. A meeting will be set up soon.

There was a question about whether there were issues around people not following rules or other incidents with the opening. There was one issue with a child under 2 not wearing a mask (discussed on social media). There were no other incidents. Staff is not uncomfortable. Some staff members are uncomfortable about the Saturday event, but the event is outside and they are working on making everyone comfortable.

Asia Heritage Event: Laura provided an update with input from Svati. The event is scheduled for the week of May 24. There is a writer event on Wednesday, a Zoom talk with the Chinese museum (with an introduction by a professor from SUNY Purchase) on Monday, two Indian classical dance events and some arts and crafts events.

President's Report: 80 people are registered for tomorrow night's artist talk in connection with HindSIGHT is 2020. Felicia encouraged everyone to register. She also requested everyone to sign up for at least one, if not two, events a month to show support for the library.

Felicia met along with Margot and some others with the architects about the signage for the building. This is one of her upcoming projects.

Typically, in this meeting, the Board works on goals for the year. Since we were late on opening up, our goal-setting is delayed. Beth, Gary and Felicia will work on it soon.

Felicia formally welcomed Ekta and Pedro and invited them to speak about themselves. Both spoke briefly about themselves.

Felicia took a few minutes to talk about the financials which were circulated earlier by Beth. There were no questions or comments.

Building Report: Beth reported that we are still working on the shades. The purchasing rules are very specific. There is no word on squirrel damage from the insurance company. They are working on the door lock. We haven't done the final close out, but only small issues remain.

There was discussion about using the squirrel story on social media to create a buzz. Ideas included creating a "Wanted" poster, naming the squirrel, and possibly tying up with summer reading for kids whose theme is tails.

Opening Updates: The reopening committee will meet soon after Beth's return from vacation.

Vacation Buyback for non-Union Employees (Action Item): The non-union benefit plan allows for the buyback of up to 35 hours of vacation time per calendar year. Due to factors over the last two years that include the demands of the building project, COVID-19, and the Assistant Director vacancy, Beth Bermel and Roberta Stein-Ham were unable to take vacation time without negatively impacting the Library's operations, and therefore have more time accrued than can be used this year. In order to reduce future liability, Beth requested a one-time exception which would allow for the buy back of an additional 35 hours. The cost is about \$5,000 and is available in the budget.

Motion: Upon a motion by Jordan Copeland seconded by Pedro Ladislau, a motion to allow for the buy back of an additional 35 hours of vacation time, for a total of up to 70 hours, for non-union employees for calendar year 2021 on a one-time basis was approved unanimously.

Felicia adjourned the meeting at 8.11 pm.