

# Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library

June 14, 2021

## Via Zoom Conference

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held on June 14, 2021 via ZOOM conference as per the executive order of the NYS Governor's office, responding to COVID-19 social distancing regulations.

The following participants were in attendance: Felicia Block, President; Gary Katz, VP; Laura Liu, Financial Officer; Svati Kania Shashank, Secretary; Jordan Copeland, Trustee; Pedro Ladislau, Trustee; Margot Milberg, Trustee; Deb Morel, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Justin Arest, Village Trusee Liaison; Michelle Lichtenberg, FOSL.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes of the May 10, 2021 Meeting:** A motion was made by Jordan Copeland and seconded by Deb Morel to approve the May meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved, with one correction, that Gary Katz was not in attendance at the May Board meeting.

**Friends of the Scarsdale Library (FOSL) Report:** Michelle Lichtenberg reported that the May event was a lot of fun and we had new families joining. The Library and the FOSL are discussing the next steps with respect to the flowers. Input was shared by various attendees that the event brought the community together very well.

**Director's Report:** A detailed report was circulated to the Trustees prior to the meeting. The report does not mention that we are having issues with service at the Apiary and Beth and Roberta will meet with Laura (the owner).

In response to a query, Beth confirmed that she thinks things are going well since opening the library. We are getting positive feedback from the community. The Technology Room will be open soon. The new Assistant Director, Catherine Callegari, starts Monday. We are moving towards more normal staffing and services. We are working on programming plans and planning some hybrid programming. Only a handful of local libraries are doing in-person programs.

There was discussion about how to best display art. We have an existing art-hanging system, but we also want to attach artwork directly to the wall in the future, as we did with the current exhibit. FOSL agreed to repaint the wall, but we are investigating other options. We are obtaining quotes and samples.

There was discussion about summer hours. The only change in July and August will be a half day on Saturday. We will revisit the library hours for the Fall.

**President's Report:** Felicia Block has started to make her way through coffees with Board members.

Felicia shared with the Board the process for individuals who wish to provide programs at the Library. The website has a comprehensive form that is automatically sent to staff for review via email.

Deb Morel is leaving Scarsdale. She said how much she has enjoyed being on the Board with everyone and expressed her appreciation for Scarsdale volunteers. Felicia thanked her and requested her attend for five minutes at the next meeting so we can toast her. Beth with work with the Village to get the next person on the Board who will hopefully join us in the next meeting.

Felicia noted that Deb was part of our Policy Committee and thanked Margot Milberg for stepping in.

**Building Update:** We are very close to finalizing the shades. Felicia, Dara and Beth met with a signage firm to finalize the donor recognition panel to be put at the entrance.

**Tutoring Policy:** Since this is the first time the Library has had a policy addressing tutors, it is likely that the policy will need to be updated after we see if any issues arise. There was a discussion regarding who is eligible for a Scarsdale library card. It was clarified that the Study Room policy still applies.

Upon a motion by Svati Kania Shashank, seconded by Laura Liu, the Tutoring Policy was approved unanimously.

**Study Room Policy:** Upon a motion by Gary Katz, seconded by Jordan Copeland, the Study Room Policy was approved unanimously.

**2021-22 Goals:** Beth appreciated the input received and explained that these goals are meant to be guides. Once the Board approves the goals, Beth discusses the implementation with Department heads.

There was a suggestion to add “diversity” to 5b (to call it diversity, inclusivity and access). Upon a motion by Gary Katz, seconded by Margot Milberg, the goals were approved unanimously, subject to the change above.

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:25 pm. The Executive Session ended at 8:31 p.m.

**Approval of Wage Increases for Non-Union Employees:** Upon a motion by Jordan Copeland, seconded by Gary Katz, a wage increase of 2 percent for full-time non-union employees was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.