

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library (SPL)**

**December 11, 2023**

**Scott Meeting Room**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held on December 11, 2023 in the Scott Meeting Room.

The following participants were in attendance: Laura Liu, President; Jordan Copeland, Vice-President; Robert Jeremiah, Financial Officer; Diksha Mudbhary, Secretary; Betty Pforzheimer, Trustee; Jennifer Fischman, Trustee; Scott Gerwin, Trustee; Pedro Ladislau, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Catherine Callegari, Assistant Director; Mona Longman, Friends of the Scarsdale Library.

Absent: Stephanie Wechsler, Trustee; Sameer Ahuja, Village Trustee Liaison.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm.

- 1. Approval of minutes from November 13, 2023 meeting:** A motion was made by Betty, and seconded by Scott, to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2023 meeting. Minutes were approved, with minor corrections, with two abstentions.
- 2. Friends of the Scarsdale Library Report/Capital Campaign Committee:** Mona reported that the read-a-thon is taking place in December for elementary and middle school age students. The organization of the Spelling Bee has been moving forward and planned for March 1. The paver campaign is also ongoing for the capital campaign. The annual drive has commenced and runs December 2023-November 2024.
- 3. Director's Report:** There is no additional update beyond the Director's Report. Catherine reported that the Makerspace offerings are popular and key chain offer from Makerspace filled up quickly and garnered a lot of interest.
- 4. President's Report:** Laura thanked all board members for their contributions on the various sub-committees. Laura commended Jordan for the Scarsdale Historical Society talks at the Library that have been well attended. Laura shared some of the highlights of programming she's observed and commended everyone involved for their contributions. She has been talking to some of the Chinese community leaders to encourage better utilization of existing resources in Mandarin.
- 5. Landscape Committee:** Landscape proposals were submitted but have been pulled from the 12/12 Village Board meeting agenda. They will most likely be on the agenda in January.
- 6. Signage Committee:** More signage continues to be installed, including exterior signage. Board members agreed it aesthetically looked good, and Catherine confirmed staff reported patrons seem better able to navigate the library.
- 7. Policy Committee:** The committee has received, reviewed and edited the Social Media Policy from the First Amendment attorney. The committee plans to do further review and discussion to arrive at a version to be submitted for approval by the full Board at the January Board meeting.
- 8. Bylaws Committee:** The Bylaws Committee continues to explore a solution to the term appointments currently in place for Trustees joining on non-full term openings. After Jordan reviewed the various possible options, Trustees discussed the best option for moving forward to cause the least amount of disruption and

paperwork. In terms of 2024-2025 nominating committee, it will be formed in January and officers will be elected in March.

**9. FY2024-2025 proposed budget and fund balance- review and discussion:** Beth to schedule small group meetings with Board members to look at the details of the budget and get feedback. Beth shared that she, the ad-hoc Finance Committee along with representatives from the Village, met with WLS Executive Director Terry Kirchner and WLS CFO Rob Caluori to review NYS laws regarding municipal libraries, with an emphasis on fund balance. The committee had a follow-up meeting in early December to further discuss how that will have an impact on the use of the Library's fund balance, the Fund Balance Policy and our future steps.

**10. Acceptance of gift from the FoSL in support of the Landscape Master Plan:** Motion by Robert to accept gift of \$66,743.53 and seconded by Jennifer. Unanimously approved.

**11. Legal retainer agreement:** Motion by Jordan to assign the rights and obligations of Lamb & Barnosky pursuant to the retainer agreement to Keane & Beane P.C., and to terminate the retainer agreement with Lamb & Barnosky, LLP, and seconded by Betty. Unanimously approved.

**12. Comments from the public:** A member of the public addressed the Board.

Laura adjourned the Board meeting at 8:48 pm.

Submitted by Diksha Mudbhary