

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library (SPL)
December 12, 2022
Meeting Room North/South

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held on December 12, 2022.

The following participants were in attendance: Gary Katz, President; Laura Liu, Vice-President; Jordan Copeland, Financial Officer; Pedro Ladislau, Secretary; Scott Gerwin, Trustee; Robert Jeremiah, Trustee; Diksha Mudbhary, Trustee; Stephanie Wechsler, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Catherine Callegari, Assistant Director of Patron Services; Mona Longman, FoSL representative; Karen Brew, Village Board Liaison.

Members of the public: Robin Stettmisch

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of the November 14, 2022 meeting: A motion was made by Jordan, and seconded by Robert, to approve the minutes of the prior regular meeting. The motion was approved.

Friends of the Scarsdale Library Report: Mona mentioned that the FOSL is in heavy fundraising mode until the year-end through outreach emails. In addition, Mona also mentioned that the Library in the Park campaign is progressing well with the team targeting larger gifts and naming opportunities.

Director's Report: Beth mentioned that in addition to the topics on her report she is working with the FOSL on schematics regarding the Library in the Park campaign during the current planning phase. Beth added that the execution phase will start only in the next fiscal year, around June 2024, and that it will not include funding from taxpayers, only donations raised by the FOSL.

Stephanie suggested that adding comparative data to the program statistics would help contextualize the numbers. Beth and Catherine agreed but mentioned that prior year data would still reflect reduced library usage during covid since the summer of 2022 was when the new normal started.

Diksha asked if there are feedback opportunities from the community in relation to the programs offered, clarifying that we only measure what is offered and not what may be wanted. Beth agreed and suggested that this might be a good timing to start planning an outreach campaign, since the most recent survey was done in 2019.

President's Report: Gary reminded the Board Members that some of initiatives mentioned on the director's report relate directly to the 2022 performance goals defined for the Library. Specifically, the 4th goal: collaborate with the FOSL, prioritizing funding needs and the meeting that happened on November 29th where Beth offered to provide tours and context for the

fundraising campaign; and the 5th goal: meet the needs for programs and make the Library the center of community life, and examples that feed into this goal like Beth's meeting with the organizer of "Scarsdale Moms," engaging with kids at the Light the 'Dale initiative, and interaction with the Senior Council and request for their feedback.

Jordan added that he is very appreciative of the Library staff going outside the Library walls looking for feedback and not wait for people to walk in the door.

Stephanie suggested the Library staff to reach out to the Middle School for the 8th graders cohort regarding the "Reading Retreats". Stephanie added that the 8th graders were left out of this very positive initiative and their inclusion would strengthen the Library's network with the kids and parents.

Regarding budget discussions, Gary requested two volunteers from the Board to join him and Beth to review the FY 2023-2024 budget. Laura and Diksha volunteered.

Comments from the public: none.

At 8:13pm, a motion was made by Diksha and seconded by Jordan to enter into Executive Session.

At 8:47pm, a motion was made by Laura and seconded by Jordan to exit Executive Session.

Without further discussions, Gary adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.