

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library (SPL)
February 13, 2023
Scott Room

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held on February 13, 2023.

The following participants were in attendance: Gary Katz, President; Laura Liu, Vice-President; Jordan Copeland, Financial Officer; Pedro Ladislau, Secretary; Robert Jeremiah, Trustee; Betty Pforzheimer, Trustee, Diksha Mudbhary, Trustee; Scott Gerwin, Trustee; Stephanie Wechsler, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Catherine Callegari, Assistant Director of Patron Services; Michelle Lichtenberg, Friends of the Scarsdale Library; Karen Brew, Village Trustee Liaison

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of the January 9, 2023 meeting: A motion was made by Betty, and seconded by Robert, to approve the minutes of the prior regular meeting. The motion was approved.

Friends of the Scarsdale Library Report: Michelle mentioned that the FOSL has two new Co-Presidents, Nancy Kaplan and Stacey Meyer, that will start their tenure on April 1st, 2023. Michelle added that Dara Gruenberg, the outgoing President, did a terrific job at energizing the organization, fundraising events and welcoming new members. Michelle also added that the special program committee continues to attract amazing speakers, like the event featuring Vanessa Kroll Bennet from The Puberty Podcast. Michelle finalized her update mentioning that the fundraising continues for the "Library in the Park" campaign and that the FOSL is considering increasing the number of available naming opportunities.

Director's Report: Beth briefly updated the trustees on the budget approval process and the outcome of the meeting at the Village Hall, where she presented the proposal for the FY 2023-24 budget.

President's Report: Gary thanked Beth for her leadership on the FY 2023-24 budget presentation to the Village trustees and shared that the library was asked for opportunities to reduce expenses. Karen added that, with the increased demands for funds, the Village Trustees are challenging every department for saving opportunities.

Scott added that, on a revised proposal, the library should include what the community is giving up with a smaller budget. Stephanie asked if there were opportunities for some programs to be run and financed by the Recreation Department rather than the Library. Pedro suggested that the revised budget should include specific metrics on the increased demand for programs and other services provided by the library, as well as the context that with the new building and the post-covid environment, the costs cannot be directly compared with prior years. Jordan added that the discussion needs to be driven by data and that it would be ideal to present data on the usage of the circulation, reference, children, teen and other sections of the Library.

Gary then acknowledged recent activities in the Director's Report that continue to address the performance goals for this year. Goal#3 is the review and update of library policies and procedures. Beth's experience with author and political activist, Kirk Cameron, and his publisher has raised questions about sponsored programs and room rentals throughout the library community, and Beth has engaged in conversations on this topic with other libraries and recommended that we revisit these and other policies. Goal#5 recommends the active assessment of programming to meet community interests. Two activities in Beth's report specifically address this goal. Beth and several staff, together with trustee Diksha, met with community members to discuss

program ideas that focus on the importance of inclusion, and Beth's service on the Safe Coalition is an example of our collaboration with Scarsdale based social service organizations.

Comments from the public: none.

At 7:30pm, a motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Diksha to enter in to **Executive Session**.

At 8:43pm, a motion was made by Pedro and seconded by Jordan to exit **Executive Session**.

A motion was made by Pedro, and seconded by Laura, to approve a revised budget proposal for FY 2023-24, including a reduction of approximately \$95,000. The motion was approved unanimously.

Without further discussions, Gary adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.