

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library  
October 7, 2019  
Wayside Cottage**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held at 7:30 pm on October 7, 2019 at Wayside Cottage. The following participants were in attendance: Elyse Klayman, President; Margot Milberg, VP; Gary Katz, Financial Officer; Diane Greenwald, Secretary; Alan Bey, Trustee; Felicia Block, Trustee; Laura Liu, Trustee; Deb Morel, Trustee; Svati Shashank, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Michelle Lichtenberg, FOSL representative; Absent: Jane Veron, Village Trustee Liaison

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm

**Approval of Minutes:** With no changes, a motion was made by Svati Shashank and seconded by Alan Bey to approve the September meeting minutes, and were unanimously approved.

**Friends report:** Michelle reported that the FOSL is happy to be participating in the strategic planning process and eager for the upcoming retreat. She reminded the Board that Spelling Bee planning is underway and the “words” committee has met to start to select the words to spell. They also are working to obtain personal and corporate sponsorships. Michelle asked that if Board members have any valuable connections or ideas for anyone able to offer matching gifts, please let that FOSL know. The FOSL welcomes ideas for the event and to please sign up – there is a tradition of the Library Board to enter a team, the TrustBees. Michelle reported that the Bee will include fun trivia activities for the audience during breaks in competition.

Discussions continued about other fundraising events in the community and Alan asked about the Casino Night. Michelle reminded the Board that this community Spelling Bee is the primary fundraiser this year and is replacing the Casino Night Gala.

**Director’s Report:** Beth added a few comments to her written report. She is enjoying “finally” listening to Susan Orlean’s *The Library Book*. Beth reported that after a robust process, she is delighted to have hired a new Assistant Director, Shira Ronis Barkoe. She will be starting on November 4 but will be attending the strategic planning retreat this month. Shira’s bio has been sent to the Board. Margot reported that she met Shira and expects she will be a great addition.

Beth also informed the Board of personnel changes at the Village. Angela Martin is stepping out of her role as Village Attorney and returning to her former position as the head of HR. Details about the Village Attorney will be discussed at the Village Board of Trustees’ business meeting (running concurrent to this meeting).

Beth reported on the status of this year’s NYS Library Construction Grant. She sent a new application in and is hopeful about this funding source. Meanwhile, Beth received a check for 90% of the 2018-19 NYS grant! A resolution to accept the check is included in the Village agenda tonight.

**President’s Report:** Elyse reported she would add comments during other reports but opened discussion about an important topic, the reopening of the library. Elyse would like the board to think about their roles, welcoming members to join a subcommittee for programming for the opening efforts. Discussion occurred about what we conceive of as a successful, celebratory, festive return to our transformed space.

Elyse and Margot reported that the Strategic Planning Committee had met that morning and received updates from Plan A, including very strong response numbers on the survey. Elyse reminded the Board that the upcoming strategic planning retreat will be held on Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at Sunningdale Country Club. Margot will be sending out an informational memo on Friday with logistics and an agenda. She mentioned that they will be sending out a question for reflection in advance of the workshop. This vision

retreat includes the Library Board, the full staff, the full FOSL Board, facilitated by Plan A. All expressed enthusiasm.

**Building Committee:** Diane and Beth reported on furniture updates from the Sept 24 meeting at Dattner's office, where State contract furniture was reviewed and selected, including a comfy chair for the teen area. This and other recommendations by the building committee were shared with the Library Board, including reduction of costs for garage bins, a surprisingly expensive item. Diane distributed the most recent furniture budget, which remains in line with already approved budget from September meeting. No further action is needed. Diane and Beth reported on a meeting held with the children's librarians to ensure that current layout and furniture selections match with their programmatic requests submitted last year. Follow up is underway with Dattner. Building committee representatives will be at site project meeting tomorrow morning and will be confirming schedule updates. Financial updates will be gathered at a building committee meeting later in October and will be reported on at the next meeting.

**Liaison report:** Felicia reported on her meeting with Beth and next steps for meeting with schools. She reports that connections to the high school and middle school are in great shape! She created a list of nursery schools for future outreach, and that ensured that book pickups at schools are set up. Beth added that 200 library cards were recently issued during a push at the Middle School. Deb is helping set up for the back to school nights at the High School. Question was asked about whether school librarians will be attending the retreat on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, but they will not be included at this junctures. Ideas for engaging the school librarians were discussed, including around the new MakersSpace.

Laura reported on the upcoming Chinese student art show at the Scarsdale Women's Club this year, run by Kiki Hong. Proceeds from the event are being donated to the Library capital project again. It will be held October 26<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 – 3:30, and October 27<sup>th</sup>, with an awards ceremony at 1-2:30pm. All are welcome to attend and Board members commented on how exceptional the art has been in years past. Svati also noted that Diwali is that same weekend.

Motion to end the meeting made by Felicia Block and seconded by Gary. Meeting ended at 8:35pm

Respectfully Submitted by Diane Greenwald, Board Secretary