

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library December 9, 2019, Wayside Cottage

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held at 7:30 p.m. on December 9, 2019 at Wayside Cottage. The following participants were in attendance: Elyse Klayman, President; Margot Milberg, Vice President; Gary Katz, Financial Officer; Diane Greenwald, Secretary; Alan Bey, Trustee; Felicia Block, Trustee; Laura Liu, Trustee; Deb Morel, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Shira Ronis Barkoe, Asst. Director; and Dara Gruenberg, FOSL representative. Absent: Svati Shashank, Trustee and Jane Veron, Village Board Liaison.

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** No changes and motion was made by Alan Bey and seconded by Margot Milberg to approve the November meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved.

**Friends' Report:** Dara Gruenberg, FOSL president, reported on the annual appeal, which was included in the most recent edition of BookMarks. She also discussed the upcoming Spelling Bee fundraiser on Jan 31, 2020. Outreach, advertising, and teams were discussed, as well as a call for sponsorship ideas and support.

**Director's Report:** In addition to the written Director's Report, Beth mentioned the Library's enjoyment of the 'Light the 'Dale' event. Children's Librarians Karen Zielinski and Aisha Bell staffed the SPL tent, and conducted a craft program. Brian Gray, Superintendent of Recreation and Parks had invited the Library to participate. Staff was very excited, and saw kids they hadn't seen in a while, due to limited fall library hours. Discussion of the success of the event continued.

Board discussed with Beth and Shira that Children's Librarian Sarah Rodriguez has been selected to participate on the prestigious Caldecott Award Committee, which is very exciting but also is a large time commitment that will have an impact on the Library. Discussion continued about need for policy about staff time, costs and permission in future.

Beth also reminded the board about the upcoming annual operating budget process. Beth has a draft due to Village on Dec 31. In January, Beth will meet with the Village Manager, who doesn't have approval rights, but does give important feedback. At the next Library Board meeting, Beth will present to us the draft budget for our discussion and approval. Beth makes her presentation to the Village Board on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

**President's Report:** Elyse reminded Board members to please become a Friend and expressed gratitude for the Friends' leadership and partnership, all in shared support of Library efforts. Elyse next discussed needing Board (and FOSL) volunteers for new committees in support of anticipated Library reopening. New committees include a grand opening and special programming committee. After budget season, in the spring, the Board and staff will also need to start work on policy planning for the return to building, which will be ongoing work, reviewing, updating and creating policies that support the Library in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Building Committee:** In addition to the Building Committee update sent to the board this week, Diane updated the board on the café pre-meeting for that committee work and the first signage sub-committee meeting, both of which happened this week. Agendas and issues were discussed and work will continue in January.

**Strategic Planning Steering Committee:** Margot updated the Board on the 3 round tables underway to round out community feedback, including a teen group of 16 – 17 teens and 11 parents, 12 members of the business community, and about the same number for a group discussing families with special needs. The Board asked questions and discussed logistics and will look forward to hearing the feedback provided at the next Board meeting. Beth also discussed the staff work on tactical worksheets used to implement the goals.

**Liaison Reports:** A meeting with the Scarsdale Historical Society was productive, Deb Morel reported. It included good discussions regarding the ongoing digitization of *The Scarsdale Inquirer*, copyright issues and future collaboration.

**Macmillan Boycott:** Beth filled the Board in on the issues with Macmillian ebook purchasing: the publisher announced this fall that a library may purchase only one copy upon release of a new title in ebook format regardless of the size of the library, after which the publisher will impose an eight-week embargo on additional copies of that title sold to libraries. Following the lead of many public libraries nationwide, Beth recommended a boycott of Macmillan ebooks until the model is changed. The Board discussed the need and value for publishers to partner with libraries, and that the restriction on buying ebooks is shortsighted. Felicia noted that the publisher is acting without data. The Board voted on a resolution that SPL will no longer purchase ebooks from Macmillian while this model is in place. Felicia made the motion and Deb seconded; the vote passed unanimously. This information will be posted on the SPL website.

The public meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The Board entered an executive session to discuss a personnel matter began at 8:32pm, ended at 9:27p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Diane Greenwald, Board Secretary