

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library
July 12, 2021
Scarsdale Public Library**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held on July 12, 2021 in Meeting Room South.

The following participants were in attendance: Felicia Block, President; Gary Katz, VP; Laura Liu, Financial Officer; Svati Kania Shashank, Secretary; Pedro Ladislau, Trustee; Margot Milberg, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Justin Arest, Village Trustee; Dara Gruenberg, FOSL; Catherine Callegari, Assistant Director; Robert Jeremiah, as member of public. Ekta Sahni, Trustee, was not in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 pm.

Approval of Minutes of the June 14, 2021 Meeting: A motion was made by Margot Milberg and seconded by Laura Liu to approve the June meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved, with two corrections: (i) Ekta Sahni was not in attendance at the meeting, and (ii) the words "full time" should be added before the words "nonunion employees".

Friends of the Scarsdale Library (FOSL) Report: Dara Gruenberg explained that, in order to reduce costs in the renovation and expansion project, the Building Committee had reduced the scope of the landscaping plan, with the hope to fund that portion of the project at a later date. An RFP was sent to a number of landscape architects, and one will be selected shortly. The FOSL has secured funds to pay for the landscape architect to create a master plan, which can then be used for fundraising purposes. The FOSL intends to fundraise for this project, which may be implemented in phases, and no Village funds will be required. A Landscape Master Plan Committee has been formed, consisting of Dara Gruenberg, Beth Bermel, Felicia Block, Jordan Copeland, Margot Milberg, Terry Singer and Paul Zaicek.

Discussion: There was a discussion around the timeline.

Director's Report: Beth announced that the next phase of reopening will be the Study Rooms and Technology Room.

A section of shelving fell on a child in the Children's Room. Fortunately, the child was not seriously injured. Beth contacted the shelving company whose representative came (without informing Beth) and claimed he had checked all the shelves. However, one section of the shelves may not be properly secured to the wall, so Beth has asked them to check again, when she or her designee is present.

Discussion: Damage from squirrels is not yet repaired because we are waiting on insurance. There was discussion about the shelving issue (and the possibility of putting up a sign) and Trustees requested an update on the shelving issue in next month's report.

Beth noted that last Thursday the Library had a very generous donation of books from the Chinese community. In addition, a donation of \$5000 was made to FOSL for purchasing more books. We are planning a meeting with the Chinese Association to figure out a systematic program.

Beth provided an overview of financial information. The Village Treasurer and Beth are talking about revamping the manner in which the budget is presented. They will realign a few things,

modernize some things, and discuss accepting credit card payments, as well as having access to a departmental credit card for purchases.

Discussion: There was discussion about comparing the spending to last year. Beth confirmed that she was comfortable with the budget. There was discussion about open positions.

President's Report: Felicia Block mentioned that Deb Morel couldn't be attend because under the weather, but we will celebrate her, and possibly Svati Kania, at the next meeting (since Svati might also leave Scarsdale soon). She then introduced Catherine Callegari, who has joined as the new Assistant Director. Catherine spoke of her experience and noted the great impression the library has made on her. Everyone mentioned the book they are currently reading.

Building Update: Beth has ordered the shades for the workroom and Teen Room, but does not have a schedule for installation yet. The privacy cling for the large, interior window in the staff workroom, and frosted strips for the interior study room windows are also on order. We have picked a vendor for the donor sign and signed the agreement. Once deposit is in process they will get started.

Discussion: There was discussion about our librarians partnering with the school system.

We have some HVAC issues in the main area; we believe it's because we increased outside air for COVID purposes and when it got hot and humid the system could not keep up. Staff will have a meeting to figure out who to call for what HVAC issue. We have once again had leaks in two areas where we have had leaks before (which we thought were fixed). They will come back and fix it. None of this is interfering our work. There has been no flooding during the recent storms.

We are buying tables for the Scott Room and plan to reconfigure the tables in study rooms.

Additional Issue Discussion: There was discussion about an employee potentially needing accommodation.

Meeting Room Policy: Some changes to the Meeting Room policy were discussed. This included moving some language to the general section and charging piano fees. There was clarification that the entities that would not pay for using Meeting Rooms would be the Village of Scarsdale and FOSL. A motion to approve the Meeting Room Policy was passed unanimously upon being proposed by Svati Kania Shashank and seconded by Gary Katz.

The Board went into executive session at 9.32 pm and the meeting adjourned at 9.37 pm.