

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library (SPL)

June 12, 2023

Scott Meeting Room

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held on June 12, 2023 in the Scott Room.

The following participants were in attendance: Laura Liu, President; Jordan Copeland, Vice-President; Robert Jeremiah, Financial Officer; Diksha Mudbhary, Secretary; Stephanie Wechsler, Trustee; Pedro Ladislau, Trustee; Jennifer Fischman, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Catherine Callegari, Assistant Director; Mona Longman, Friends of the Scarsdale Library; Sameer Ahuja, Village Trustee Liaison. Absent: Scott Gerwin, Trustee; and Betty Pforzheimer, Trustee.

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes from May 8, 2023 meeting: A motion was made by Robert, and seconded by Jordan, to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2023 meeting. Because trustees who were not present at the 5/8/23 meeting must abstain, and the absences at this meeting, the approval was postponed until the July meeting, pending a quorum.

2. Friends of the Scarsdale Library Report: Mona reported that the FOSL event Sips and Snacks (June 7, 2023) went very well. The event was well attended, with approximately 165 attendees. FOSL is planning another event for September 2023 with a target audience of younger families. Fundraising has been going well, with a particular mention of a joint gift by the Asian community for a naming opportunity.

3. Director's Report: There is no additional information for the Director's Report beyond what was included in the Report. Pedro asked if there was any update on building issues and Beth clarified the window repair, roof repair and the children's bathroom repair are being addressed. Existing HVAC issues have been addressed. People counters have been installed on both entrances. Pedro asked for an update on the Makerspace, and unfortunately although existing staffing challenges have delayed progress, Catherine shared that a SFCS grant is being partnered with for the Makerspace.

4. President's Report: Laura thanked Board members for good Board representation at the Sips and Snacks Fundraiser, the Village Boards & Councils Reception and the SFCS Rising Star Gala. Laura also thanked programming staff and Wendy Archer, for her excellent experience as an event organizer at the Library recently. Laura flagged two upcoming events - High School Finals Study Nights at the Library this week and the Geraldine Brooks author event and thanked Board members for their participation. Laura also encouraged Board Members to take advantage of two virtual training opportunities provided by NY State Library: Open Meeting Law and Freedom of Information Law.

Laura reported back that she, together with Jordan and Beth, met with Village Board Trustee Ahuja and Trustee Gruenberg to discuss areas to collaborate including communications, finance/budget/fund balance, and efficient processes for facilities repairs. Library Board will welcome the opportunity to give periodic updates at Village Board meetings to share updates from the Library.

5. Landscape Master Plan Committee/Capital Campaign Committee: In order to have an opportunity to review a wider range of submissions, the Committee will accept another round of submissions of architects for the pavilion.

6. Signage Committee: Everything is in order to get the fabrication work started, and signage is expected to go up this summer.

7. Juneteenth Holiday Closing: Pedro requested clarification on why the Juneteenth closing is one time, and Beth clarified that in order to recognize a permanent holiday it will be a part of the CSEA negotiations. A motion to approve for 2023 was made by Stephanie and seconded by Robert. The motion was unanimously approved.

8. Acceptance of gift from the FOSL in support of the Landscape Master Plan: A motion to approve was made by Pedro and seconded by Robert. The motion was unanimously approved.

9. Comments from the public: There was one comment from the public.

10. Executive Session - discussion on legal matters: A motion to enter Executive Session to discuss legal matters was made by Pedro and seconded by Jordan at 8:05 pm. The motion was unanimously approved.

At 8:34 pm a motion was made by Stephanie and seconded by Pedro to exit Executive Session. The motion was unanimously approved.

11. Informed consent memo: The Board discussed the draft Informed Consent Memo and decided to add a sentence to define the term "Village" as to include only the Village Board and its Members, the Village Manager, the Deputy Village Manager and the Human Resources Director. A motion to approve the informed consent memo with updated language was made by Jordan and seconded by Jennifer. The motion was unanimously approved.

Laura adjourned the Board meeting at 8:35 pm.

Submitted by Diksha Mudbhary