

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library (SPL)
July 18, 2022
Scott Room

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held on July 18, 2022.

The following participants were in attendance: Gary Katz, President; Laura Liu, Vice-President; Pedro Ladislau, Secretary; Scott Gerwin, Trustee; Diksha Mudbhary, Trustee; Betty Pforzheimer, Trustee; Stephanie Wechsler, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Catherine Callegari, Assistant Director of Patron Services. Members of the public: Robin Stettinisch

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of the June 13, 2022 meeting: A motion was made by Betty, and seconded by Diksha, to approve the minutes of the prior regular meeting. The motion was approved.

Director's Report: Beth provided an update on the building issues especially related to recent meetings and improvements related to the AV systems. Beth added that the digital signage ("flat screens") is still not working but hopes this can be addressed soon. In addition, Beth mentioned that a PA system was recently installed in the Children's room. All in all, Beth considered we are moving in the right direction on addressing the building's issues, with the help from the Village staff.

Pedro asked Beth to comment on the recent event that took place in the library related to teenager pranksters. Beth clarified that the incident was related to some teenagers recording a "Tik Tok" prankster video simulating frying eggs in the Library's lobby. Beth added that the police were immediately called and dealt with the situation and that, unfortunately, incidents like this also happened at other Westchester County libraries, namely Mount Pleasant and Chappaqua.

President's Report: Gary started by thanking Beth, Catherine and all the library staff for the quality of the programs and the number of patrons attending these. Gary, on behalf of the entire Board, wanted to acknowledge the effort and highlight the organization, leadership and commitment of all library's staff to the planning and successful execution of these programs. Gary then moved on to explain that the SPL received a request to use one of the library's rooms for a fundraising event to fund a scholarship for an alma mater. Gary said that Beth would later clarify the library's policy related to meeting room usage for private fundraising events.

Gary also provided some updates on the recently created Signage Committee and the engagement with the signage firm that is undertaking the task to identify and propose solutions to "wayfinding" around the library's building. Betty, as a member of Signage Committee, added that the firm has the first mock-ups ready and said she has been impressed about the good discussions and work from the signage firm. Betty added that the firm is very "hands on" and she expects to bring some signage materials to be presented at upcoming September Board meeting.

Gary also provided an update on the "memorandum of understanding" (MoU) between the Library Board and the Friends of the Scarsdale Library (FoSL). Stephanie added that the document includes mostly the same verbiage as the prior MoU created between the two parties a few years ago related to fundraising for the capital plan. Stephanie added that, this time around, the MoU refers to the fundraising for the landscaping/hardscaping for the new library campus. A motion was made by Laura, and seconded by Betty, to approve the MoU. The motion was approved.

Comments from the public: Robin Stettmisch addressed the Board on topics related to her picketing activities, specifically on the content of the recent statement issued by the Village of Scarsdale.

Regarding the topic of the fundraising request, Beth clarified that the Library's meeting room reservation policy does not allow fundraising activities that do not directly benefit the library. Diksha mentioned that she hopes the beautiful library spaces can be reserved and used by all in the community. Beth responded that because of the pandemic the rooms have not been able to be reserved for about 1.5 years but now the staff has seen significant increase in requests to reserve the meeting rooms. Beth re-affirmed that the rooms can be used for any purposes, just not private fundraising activities.

At 8:20pm, a motion was made by Stephanie and seconded by Betty to enter into **Executive Session**.

At 10:20pm, a motion was made by Scott and seconded by Stephanie to exit **Executive Session**.

Without further discussions, Gary adjourned the meeting at 10:20 p.m.