

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library
May 13, 2019
Wayside Cottage

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held at 7:30 pm on May 13, 2019 at Wayside Cottage. The following participants were in attendance: Elyse Klayman, President; Margot Milberg, VP; Gary Katz, Treasurer; Diane Greenwald, Secretary; Felicia Block, Trustee; Deb Morel, Trustee; Alan Bey, Trustee; Svati Shashank, Trustee; and Laura Liu, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Michelle Lichtenberg, FOSL; Jane Veron, Village Trustee Liaison.

Prior to formal business meeting, celebration was held for outgoing Board president, who was grateful for lovely gifts and kind words, and introductions were made around table to welcome new officers and new board members, Laura and Svati. SPL Board now has 9 members.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Minor edits were made to the April minutes. Upon a motion by Alan Bey, seconded by Gary Katz, the amended minutes from the April 2019 meeting were unanimously approved by the full board.

Director's Report: Beth Bermel added these updates to her submitted report: Beth met with PRC Superintendent Brian Gray, Friends of Scarsdale Parks member Madeleine Eppenstein, FOSL Board member Lori Harrison and local student Danielle Kohn on Friday May 10th to discuss *Little Free Libraries*. The "take a book, share a book" initiative is generated by a SHS student, entails placing weatherproof boxes in strategic locations for the purpose of book exchange. Beth reported that discussions included logistics, liability, long-term maintenance, responsibility, and sponsorship by other organizations. Beth also finalized the time for Village Trustees to tour Library construction as part of their full Village facilities tour. Diane will join her to represent the Library Board and meet them at the site. Beth attended a WLA-sponsored workshop providing valuable instruction on successful bogging techniques. Board discussion came to agreement that it would be a great feature on our new website and to consider making it a rotation of voices.

President's Report: Elyse Klayman noted that the new website launched last week, and that it is attractive and responsive. This is a soft launch, which permits tweaks over the week to ensure smooth operation going forward. Launch includes opportunity for response from patrons. Feedback has been minimal as of yet. On launch day, the system was slowed by a problem with WLS, which was unfortunate timing, but has been addressed. Diane mentioned that Elyse has been a strong driver of the project, helping Beth and staff moving it forward.

The Board voted to change the July Board meeting to July 22 – Alan made the motion and Margot seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Friends of the Scarsdale Library Report: Michelle reported that FOSL will set up a table at the Golden Horseshoe sidewalk sale, selling fun swag and auctioning off raffle prizes on June 15 and 16. Diane is creating small posters about the renovation project for display. Also, the Spelling Bee is Back for 2020! Loretta Vickers will be chairing. Board discussed the tradition of entering a library board team – the Trust Bees. Event is scheduled for Jan 31 with a snow date of Feb 7. BookMarks publication is in mail, with these and other announcements. Diane brought in a mock up for viewing.

Building Committee: Diane reported that there is a building committee meeting tomorrow in NYC at Dattner's offices to meet with two furniture brokers who have proposed library furniture, purchase and install. The cost difference between the two companies is not wide and could be negotiated if there are other valuable factors under consideration. Furniture is mostly selected from NYS contract, with a few low-

cost non-state contract selections. Beth reported that Dattner does not recommend we pursue working with one of two library-specific furniture brokers we mentioned because they are not designers. For a large, total renovation project like ours, it might cause more problems to start over. Those dealers are good for small projects and discrete updates, but this is a completely new build/major gut renovation and our layout has been pre-vetted for the products we have been looking at, especially the shelving. Dattner feels that BCI Shelves checked all the boxes for what they recommend - flexibility, durability, lighting, aesthetics and layout. The price has come down significantly since first specified, and is now competitive with other lines.

Discussion continued about two issues on horizon – the concession planning for the café and hiring a signage company. Beth met with Village Manager Steve P and Brian Gray, Recreation and Parks Superintendent, to discuss timing and plan. And Diane mentioned plans will begin to select a signage designer and to include members of the capital committee for advisory support.

Capital Campaign: Final pavers list was completed and is being sent to contractor tomorrow.

Strategic Plan Committee: Margot reported that in February, she was tasked to chair this committee and met with members to discuss updating the strategic plan that ended in 2017. After good discussions, the group recommended hiring a consultant with long-range vision planning experience to help guide our process. Margot and Beth reached out to 7 consultants. 5 sent proposals and the group evaluated and interviewed 3 finalists last Monday. All committee members unanimously preferred Plan A Advisors.

The committee discussed value for fresh eyes, but in the end, Plan A, our well-regarded consultants on the campaign, made a great presentation and clear case for selection. They had good process, dynamic approach and were receptive to our thinking. They clearly understand our needs, our community and even the broader library trends. They put a lot of thought in their deliverables, and the price was competitive. They know us and they want to work with us. References were checked and Evan and Adam got glowing comments for their strategic planning work.

FOSL has offered to split the cost of the consulting 50/50, and FOSL will participate on committee for collaborative outcomes. Deliverables include a development plan in support of their unique efforts.

Conversation continued about what Plan A will do. They will do vision planning in anticipation of our return to Olmsted Road. They will conduct targeted stakeholder interviews, seek community data, do outreach including a survey and roundtables, hold a retreat, help set and write goals, prepare deliverables including a report and presentation material, and more. Discussion included that we are not a fundraising board but we partner with FOSL, who is.

Board voted to approve hiring Plan A Advisors, and contract can proceed. Deb made the motion to approve the hiring of Plan A for \$50K and Gary seconded. Vote was unanimously in favor of hiring Plan A. Beth has authority to sign contract.

After that, Board member asked clarification questions about some of the financial reporting and Beth answered satisfactorily.

2019-2020 Goals: Alan made a motion to accept the goals, Felicia seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Board voted to enter executive session at 8:58pm to discuss union negotiations. Board voted to exit executive session at 9:14 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Diane Greenwald, Secretary