

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library
February 7, 2022
Scarsdale Public Library

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held via Zoom on February 7, 2022.

The following participants were in attendance: Felicia Block, President; Gary Katz, VP; Laura Liu, Financial Officer; Robert Jeremiah, Secretary; Pedro Ladislau, Trustee; Margot Milberg, Trustee; Jordan Copeland, Trustee; Etkah Sahni, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Catherine Callegari, Assistant Director of Patron Services; Justin Arest, Village Trustee Liaison; Michelle Lichtenberg, FoSL

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of the January 10, 2022 and January 24, 2022 Meetings: A motion was made by Gary, and seconded by Etkah, to approve minutes of the January 10th meeting. A motion was made by Gary, and seconded by Jordan, to approve minutes of the January 24th meeting.

Friends of the Scarsdale Library (FoSL) Report: The Friends met on January 25th to discuss the Landscape Master Plan. This group generated a lot of positive feedback. Next, Michelle was pleased to report a 30% increase in donations year to date in response to FoSL recent fundraising effort. Also mentioned were the plans for a special event on Friday, May 20 - an Evening Under the Stars, to be held on the grounds of the Scarsdale Public Library. Michelle also mentioned a special project with a Brownie Troop that resulted in a discussion about Books for the Homebound with a FoSL member - a conversation that resonated with the young troop members.

Director's Report: There is a new Marketing and Communication Librarian scheduled to start on February 28. The full time Children's Librarian position may also be filled soon. Beth mentioned a new collaboration planned with Jay Genova and SFCS. Beth reviewed the ongoing issues with the HVAC and AV, as well as a plumbing issue. Gary asked about the Maker Space and wondered if there was a timeframe to make it operational. Catherine mentioned there are a few steps to go - and with thoughtful planning there may be phased opening starting in June. The space is intended for both children and adults. Pedro asked about repairs and Paul Zaichuk is still working on the process to repair the damage in question. Pedro asked about kids' access to items other than books in the Children's Department. Beth commented it is due to COVID that shared toys and games are not accessible at this time. Lastly, the Historical Society is installing the new exhibit for Black History Month.

President's Report: Felicia met with Gary and Margot to review the nominations for next year's Board. These nominations will be an action item for our next meeting. Felicia continues to meet weekly with Beth to stay informed.

Landscape Master Plan Committee Report: The recent Landscape Master Plan meeting covered all of the feedback from the Board and the FoSL. Terry Singer put together a summation document including all of the feedback from the constituents. Next, the architect and his team plan to put together a draft of the next phase of design prior to March 7, the Board will review the new plans in small meetings and the

Board will compile more feedback for the March meeting. Then, the architect will do a final version that includes our goals that will go to a vote in April. The Library Board and Friends Board, working in collaboration, will move forward from there. Beth and Dara Gruenberg will share the plans with the Village Board after the March 7 meeting to keep everyone informed.

Proposed 2022-2023 Library Board Meeting dates—discussion: Please check your calendars and alert Beth of any conflicts. A question was raised about needing a separate budget approval meeting. Beth explained that there should be a process change and the budget will be available for review sooner than it was this year. Therefore, the budget approval should be included in the regular January 2023 meeting.

Fund balance earmarks—discussion: We are responsible for thoughtfully moving forward to provide the community with what it needs and be transparent in our process. Tonight we had an initial discussion of how to use the funds available. As a next step, Beth will begin to create a list of projects. She will work with Village Staff to provide a range of potential expenses for these ideas.

Felicia Block adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.