

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library  
April 12, 2021, Via Zoom Conference**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held on April 12, 2021 via ZOOM conference as per executive order of the NYS Governor's office, responding to COVID-19 social distancing regulations.

The following participants were in attendance: Margot Milberg, President; Felicia Block, VP; Gary Katz, Financial Officer; Laura Liu, Secretary; Alan Bey, Trustee; Elyse Klayman, Trustee; Deb Morel, Trustee; Jordan Copeland, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Shira Ronis Barkoe, Asst. Director; Justin Arest, Village Trustee Liaison; Mona Longman, FOSL. Nancy Kaplan, FOSL. Svati Shashank, Trustee, was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 7:33pm.

**Approval of Minutes of the March 8, 2021 Meeting:** Motion was made by Deb Morel and seconded by Alan Bey to approve the March meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved.

**Friends of the Scarsdale Library (FOSL) Report:** Nancy Kaplan reported on the planning of the "Love Our Library" Spring Celebration event scheduled on May 15th. This highly anticipated event will bring the community together and generate excitement about our new facility and programs.

Family-friendly activities being offered include Bollywood dance classes, motorized boats on the pond, the Bubble Guy, Sam from the Weinberg Nature Center, tours of the inside art installation, and more. Olmsted Road will be closed and police will be on site to redirect traffic. There will be an ice cream truck, and Apiary will offer an exciting lunch menu. Guests will sign up for 2-hour slots which will give them enough time to rotate through all stations, plus a guided tour of the art installation. There will be a membership desk where people can sign up to join the Friends of the Scarsdale Library and also "sponsor" the ceramic flowers. Email invitations have been sent out and RSVPs have been robust. Mona and Nancy encouraged Board members to sign up as volunteers at the event.

Deb asked about people overstaying and potential overcrowding. Nancy explained that guests will be issued bright-colored wrist bands and also placards for the cars. Volunteers can easily identify people whose time is up and encourage them to speed up. All activities are planned in a COVID conscious way. All stations will be disinfected between groups.

**Director's Report:** Beth had to reschedule the reopening committee meeting on Thursday due to an emergency. The squirrel damage quotes came in. The double pane casement windows are expensive to replace. Total replacement cost will be \$28K. Another option is to sand down, repair and repaint them. Beth will find out how much we will be reimbursed from the insurance company before deciding on a course of action.

**President's Report:** Margot recognized Shira for her service to the library in the past year and half, including leading the website redesign, policy review and social media development. The Board wishes Shira the best in her new endeavors.

The ribbon cutting ceremony has been scheduled for Friday, May 7th, with Wednesday, May 12 as the rain date. Margot is working on the invitations. It will be a small but nice ceremony, starting between 8:30am and 8:45 am and wrapping up by 9:15am. Guests include current and past mayors, village trustees and library trustees. Felicia, Dara, Jane and Beth will speak. There will be some chairs for people who need them. Diane

designed a fun gift for the ceremony, a mask with the library logo on it. Shira and Teya are looking into setting up a Facebook live stream for the event. It will also be recorded.

**Building Committee Update:** Beth reported that we have made more progress with the punch list items. The audio-video installations are almost completed. The staff will then need to get trained to use the control systems. The HVAC problems have been addressed. The front door is now automatic. The fob system for the side door is being worked on.

Alan asked how the Apiary is doing. Beth reported that they seem to be doing fine. They are very proactive and creative. They can do catering and all kinds of custom recipes. There are tables outside now for people to sit and eat. Nancy added that the event committee is excited to have them cater for the spring celebration.

**Opening Exhibition Update:** Elyse reported that the art exhibition will be installed on April 29th. A Zoom art talk has been scheduled on Tuesday, May 11th at 7:30pm. Local artists and writers whose work is featured in the show will discuss creating art during Covid. This is a joint program between FOSL and the Scarsdale Library Board of Trustees. Beth suggested that we play the artwork pictures on the screen in the front of the library. This event will be recorded and shared with the community as well.

**Reopening Committee:** Felicia reported that the reopening plan with reserved browsing hours has been going very well. Many patrons are excited to experience the new facility in person. Justin asked about the next steps toward further normalcy. Beth explained that the plan was to further expand reopening when the county's positivity rate goes down to 2%. We will closely monitor state policies, neighboring libraries' practices and other updates to adjust the plan. Right now we offer more access than many other libraries in Westchester. Our building is new and visitors are not familiar with where things are, so we need some extra caution in setting the number of visitors allowed in the building.

#### **WLS Free Direct Access Plan—ACTION ITEM**

The WLS Free Direct Access Plan sets terms to ensure people living in underserved areas and out-of-charter areas have open access to library services. A majority vote of member libraries will constitute approval of the plan.

A motion was made by Jordan Copeland and seconded by Gary Katz to approve the WLS Free Direct Access Plan with a provision of priority access for Scarsdale card holders. The motion passed unanimously.

**Margot adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm.**