

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library  
September 13, 2021  
Scarsdale Public Library**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held on September 13, 2021 in Meeting Room South.

The following participants were in attendance: Felicia Block, President; Gary Katz, VP; Laura Liu, Financial Officer; Pedro Ladislau, Trustee, Margot Milberg, Trustee, Jordan Copeland, Trustee, Robert Jeremiah, Trustee, Ekta Sahni, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Justin Arest, Village Trustee Liaison; Mona Longman, FOSL.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm.

**Approval of Minutes of the July 12, 2021 Meeting:** Motion was made by Margot Milberg, and seconded by Gary Katz to approve the July meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved.

**Approval of the Minutes of the August 4, 2021 Special Meeting:** With minor corrections, a motion was made by Robert Jeremiah, and seconded by Gary Katz to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2021 Special Meeting, which were unanimously approved.

**Friends of the Scarsdale Library (FOSL) Report:** Mona Longman reported that FOSL has put on hold any plans to create programs and events because of Covid. FOSL is planning to do its annual year-end fundraising drive beginning around December 1. FOSL will reassess future fundraising plans this winter. FOSL is involved with the landscaping plans at the Library and in addition to paying for the services of Fusco Landscape Architects, FOSL is participating in group meetings.

**Director's Report:** Beth shared that the Library will be recognized by Westchester Employment Network on October 8 at a virtual event for SPL's hiring practices and the hiring of individuals with disabilities. The event will be recorded for those that cannot attend.

Beth shared that the Library has been speaking with Apiary about various issues with the cafe, including staffing issues, oversight and lack of management. Apiary did pay rent last month and Beth is hopeful that Apiary can resolve its staffing issues.

The Library is starting to book meeting rooms for local non-profit organizations. Library staff is advising them that no food or drinks are allowed in any rooms. Library is also requiring partial capacity in these rooms.

Beth reviewed her 2021 goals set in June 2021 and gave a status on each goal. A few highlights include that hiring is continuing and Library will need to replace Teya Lechuga who is resigning to work full time remotely. Library is interviewing three candidates for a Staff Assistant

position. Once filled, Beth wants the Staff Assistant to assist with revamping the Library's financial reporting. Beth and her team have made progress with nearly every goal.

**President's Report:** The Governor is allowing meetings to go back on Zoom effective September 2, 2021 through January 22, 2022. The Library Board will have the opportunity to decide how to conduct our meetings with advanced notice.

Felicia shared that the Library Board needs a new Secretary with Svati's resignation. A motion was made by Margot Milberg and seconded by Pedro Ladislau to appoint Robert Jeremiah as Secretary. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Building Update:** Beth reported that the shades in the Staff and Teen Rooms have been installed and that they will be calibrated on Wednesday. The shades will address the hot temperatures in those rooms. Workmen also installed the privacy clings in the Staff Room and have installed them in the Conference and Meeting Rooms.

The Library served as a central hub for the community in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. Residents came to the Library for wifi, and internet. Every space was used and some people came with multiple devices. Wifi was sporadic at times and WLS did come to assist us. Library needs to improve the wifi outside the building.

Library suffered some water damage in the basement but it has been cleaned up. The elevator is currently not working right now, but is under warranty and will be fixed.

Library Board engaged in a charette to identify what the Board feels are key needs for the space outside the Library building. Some identified needs include quiet shaded spaces to read, gather for concerts and group activities, safe places for children to play. The identified priorities by the Library Board will be shared with Fusco Landscape Architects. Jordan Copeland is the point person for the Library Board.

Felicia Block adjourned the meeting at 8:33pm.

A motion to go into Executive Session was made by Robert Jeremiah, and seconded by Jordan Copeland.

At 9:02pm a motion was made by Gary Katz, and seconded by Etkah Sahni, to exit Executive Session.

**Felicia Block adjourned the meeting at 9:03pm.**