

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library (SPL)
January 9, 2023
Meeting Room North/South

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held on January 9, 2023.

The following participants were in attendance: Gary Katz, President; Laura Liu, Vice-President; Jordan Copeland, Financial Officer; Pedro Ladislau, Secretary; Robert Jeremiah, Trustee; Diksha Mudbhary, Trustee; Betty Pforzheimer, Trustee; Stephanie Wechsler, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Catherine Callegari, Assistant Director of Patron Services; Mona Longman, Friends of the Scarsdale Library; Karen Brew, Village Trustee Liaison

Members of the public: Robin Stettmisch

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of the December 12, 2022 meeting: A motion was made by Diksha, and seconded by Stephanie, to approve the minutes of the prior regular meeting. The motion was approved.

Friends of the Scarsdale Library Report: Mona mentioned that the FOSL is continuing its fundraising activities. On the "Library in the Park" campaign, the numbers are already ahead of last year's. Mona also mentioned that the FOSL is reaching to a broader group of the community for engagement and donations. The regular donations are very important to support the Library's programs and not only larger projects.

Director's Report: Beth mentioned that in addition to the topics on her report Catherine has contacted the Scarsdale Middle School 8th graders cohort for the reading retreat and thanked Stephanie for the suggestion.

Gary highlighted the increased participation in the library's programs, especially for adults. Beth acknowledged it and mentioned that it was related to some programs being moved from on-line to in-person and also to the Village's ongoing renovations at the Girls Scouts house.

President's Report: Gary thanked Beth and all the Library staff for the tremendous work involved in planning, preparing and hosting the event related to Brave Books - Kirk Cameron's rental of the Scott Room. Gary mentioned that the event went remarkably well detailing that it was divided into two 30-minute sessions that were able to accommodate 170 people each. Gary detailed that the Scarsdale Police also provided valuable help and worked with the Library's staff to ensure that the maximum capacity of the Scott Room was met. Some of the approximately 700 to 800 people that were inside the Library needed to be turned down but all happened in an orderly way. Gary also thanked the Board and Beth for working on a very short notice on two public statements that explained to the Scarsdale community the reasoning behind the event.

Diksha asked about the renter's requests for photography and increased time. Beth responded that regarding photos, the Library's policy is clear and no photos inside the building are allowed to protect the privacy of visitors. However, it is up to the renter to allow photography in the Scott Room during the event. Regarding the renter's request to increase the allotted time, it was denied because it was made during the event with little chance for the Library's staff to plan and prepare the logistics for more sessions.

Gary thanked Betty, Scott and Stephanie for agreeing to serve on the Nominating Committee that will propose the Library's officers for the next term, starting May 1, 2023. The names will be announced at the March 2023 meeting.

Gary also acknowledged recent Library activities that can be linked to the performance goals for this year, namely improving the interior signage ("wayfinding") and work with the FOSL on the "Library in the Park" campaign. Both Beth and Catherine have been meeting with the Signage Committee and coordinating with the external vendor to implement the new signage as well as attended the Landscape Committee meetings with architect to speak to the library needs during the design stage.

Jordan detailed that at the Landscape Committee meeting there were productive discussions regarding the pros and cons of constructing a pre-fabricated versus custom-designed pavilion, and the merits of installing a green roof or solar panels on the roof of the pavilion.

Gary concluded his remarks by highlighting a coming soon Library-sponsored event, organized by Scarsdale High School students, related to a personal experience of someone being exonerated after 17 years in prison.

Budget FY2023-24: Beth detailed the main drivers on the cost and revenue side and pointed to comparisons versus prior year. Beth also clarified that she is presenting the budget proposal to the Village Board on the January 24, 2023.

A motion was made by Betty, and seconded by Jordan, to approve the budget. The motion was approved.

Comments from the public: Ms. Stettinisch asked questions about the Brave Books – Kirk Cameron's event and the Library budget for FY2023-24.

At 8:30pm, a motion was made by Robert and seconded by Jordan to enter in to **Executive Session**.

At 9:10pm, a motion was made by Stephanie and seconded by Laura to exit **Executive Session**.

Without further discussions, Gary adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.