

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library (SPL)
December 9, 2024
Scott Room

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held on December 9, 2024.

The following participants were in attendance: Jordan Copeland, President; Robert Jeremiah, Vice President; Diksha Mudbhary, Finance Officer; Scott Gerwin, Secretary; Erika Rublin, Trustee; Stephanie Wechsler, Trustee; Jennifer Fischman, Trustee; Pedro Ladislau, Trustee; Betty Pforzheimer, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Catherine Callegari, Assistant Director; Michelle Lichtenberg, Friends of the Scarsdale Library.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. **Approval of the minutes from November 4, 2024:** Robert moved to approve the minutes from the November 4th meeting of the Library Board. Stephanie seconded the motion, and the motion was approved with none opposed.
2. **Report from Friends of Scarsdale Library:** Michelle Lichtenberg gave a brief update on behalf of the Friends of the Scarsdale Library, noting their pleasure in offering a gift to the Library in support of the Landscape Master Plan. Michelle also noted the publication of the most recent Bookmarks newsletter which was recently mailed to all Scarsdale residents.
3. **Acceptance of Gift:** Jennifer made a motion to accept a monetary gift of \$65,110 from the Friends of the Scarsdale Library in support of the Landscape Master Plan. Betty seconded the motion, and the motion was approved with none opposed.
4. **Director's Report:** Beth gave her director's report, sharing that we have hired a librarian to fill the role of Head of Access Services. The Library's preliminary proposed budget for the '25-'26 fiscal year is due to the Village on Friday December 13th. Beth will review the budget with the Village Manager on December 20th, then she will make any changes warranted and provide a proposed budget to the Library Board in January. Beth has also been interviewing for a Support Services Manager to replace Roberta, with a strong candidate identified and a final interview scheduled later this week. Beth also noted that the deadline for proposals from vendors to operate the Library's cafe space is this Thursday, and proposals from three interested vendors are expected.
5. **President's Report:** Jordan gave a President's report, noting that no emails concerning library business have been received by the board. Jordan also reviewed the Library's goals for the '24-'25 year, highlighting certain goals that have already been met and/or are progressing well, including: improvement of the Library's policies, maintaining a strong relationship with the Village; responding to customer service issues, promoting DEI and access, collaboration with the Friends of the Scarsdale Library, making progress on the landscape project (including planning for parking), performing staff reviews, and conducting staff education.

Jordan noted that other goals are dependent on the size of the Library's budget for the next fiscal year and the Board will shift focus to these after the budgeting process is complete. These goals include: goals related to Library programming, identifying needed building improvements, and developing internal policies for effective management and operation. The Board also reviewed the goal to enhance processes for metrics, noting that Library programming frequently fills up very quickly, presenting challenges to some

residents in being able to register for certain high-demand programs. Catherine noted that the Library staff has begun collecting data on the percentage of attendees of children's programming that are Scarsdale residents, and the Board agreed that this data, once it is available, will be useful in devising solutions to program capacity constraints.

6. Landscape Committee Update: Beth gave a brief update on behalf of the Landscape Committee, noting that the Committee met in December to review a presentation on pavilion design from the architect. Beth noted that the goal is to have the design of the pavilion and the door to the performance patio done by February, with the bid process for a contractor completed and contracts signed by June. Beth added that the Committee's preference was the "serene screening" proposed design for the pavilion and have asked the architect for one additional elevation done from the parking lot side. The Committee's next meeting with the architect is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11th.

7. Comments from the Public: Robin Stettmisch provided public comment.

Jordan adjourned the Board meeting at 8:39.