

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library (SPL)
April 8, 2024
North/South Meeting Room

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held on April 8, 2024.

The following participants were in attendance: Laura Liu, President; Jordan Copeland, Vice President; Robert Jeremiah, Finance Officer; Scott Gerwin, Trustee; Betty Pforzheimer, Trustee; Jennifer Fischman, Trustee; Pedro Ladislau, Trustee; Sameer Ahuja Trustee; Stephanie WechslerVillage Trustee Liaison; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Catherine Callegari, Assistant Director; Mona Longman, Friends of the Scarsdale Library.

Absent: Diksha Mudbhary, Secretary;

The meeting was called to order at 7:34pm.

1. Approval of the minutes from February 12, 2024 and March 11, 2024 meetings: Jordan moved to approve the minutes from the February 12th meeting of the Library Board. Stephanie seconded the motion, and the motion was approved with none opposed and Jennifer, Pedro, and Betty abstaining. Robert moved to approve the minutes from the March 11th meeting. Betty seconded the motion, and it was approved with none opposed and Stephanie abstaining.

2. Friends of the Scarsdale Library Report: Mona gave an update on behalf of the Friends of the Scarsdale Library. The Friends' fiscal year ended on March 31, and the budget for this fiscal year has been finalized and will be voted on this week. The Friends' finances will undergo a review starting in May, but a full audit is not required this year. The campaign in support of the landscape project is doing well. The Friends plan to do a final push for offering pavers, and is considering ending the paver program this summer.

3. Acceptance of Gift from the FOSL in support of the Landscape Master Plan: Jennifer made a motion to accept a gift from the Friends in support of the Landscape Master Plan. Stephanie seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The Board thanked the Friends for the generous gift.

4. Director's Report: Beth gave her Director's Report. Catherine and Beth attended the Public Library Association Conference and found it very useful. Hot topics at this year's conference included, censorship, DEI issues, and the impact of AI on Libraries. Beth next reported that all remaining roof leaks have been addressed. Beth also discussed her meeting with Westchester County Human Resources Commissioner, Lisa Denig to discuss the challenges in the civil service hiring process that the Library has been dealing with. Beth found the meeting productive and is optimistic for future changes to improve the hiring process. Beth then reported that the Library building lost power the previous week on Wednesday night due to the heavy winds and rainstorm, but the generator came on and the Library was able to remain open until power was restored the following Friday afternoon.

5. President's Report: Laura gave the President's report, highlighting the increased use of the Library by teens and increase in attendance of the Library's teen-oriented programming. Sameer noted that the Village Board has identified Erika Rublin as a candidate for the Library Board of Trustees to fill Laura's seat at the end of Laura's term. The Village Board will vote to approve her appointment to the Library Board later this week.

6. **Landscape Project Committee:** Beth gave an update on behalf of the Landscape Project Committee, reporting that the outstanding insurance issues that have been holding up contracts with the building architect and the landscape architect have largely been resolved, and the contract with the landscape architect has been finalized and executed. Beth expects the contract with the building architect to be executed in the coming weeks.

7. **Library Goals for 2024-25:** The Board discussed goals for the Library for the upcoming year.

8. **Comments from the Public:** There were no comments from the public.

9. **Executive Session:** Jordan moved to enter Executive Session to seek legal advice from the Library's attorney and to discuss the employment history of a particular person. Pedro seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved. The Board entered executive session at 8:02 p.m.

The Board exited executive session at 10:03

Laura adjourned the Board meeting at 10:03