

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library (SPL)

May 2, 2022

Meeting Room South

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held in Meeting Room South, on May 2, 2022.

The following participants were in attendance: Gary Katz, President; Laura Liu, VP, Jordan Copeland, Financial Officer; Pedro Ladislau, Secretary; Robert Jeremiah, Trustee; Scott Gerwin, Trustee; Diksha Mudbhary, Trustee; Betty Pforzheimer, Trustee; Stephanie Wechsler, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Catherine Callegari, Assistant Director of Patron Services; Karen Brew, Village Trustee Liaison; Jamie Kefer, Friends of the Scarsdale Library. Member of the public: Robin Stettensch

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of the April 4, 2022 meeting: A motion was made by Jordan, and seconded by Robert, to approve the minutes of the April meeting. The motion was approved.

Friends of the Scarsdale Library (FoSL) Report: Jamie provided an update on the preparations for the Friends of the Scarsdale Library May 20th event - Evening Under the Stars. She mentioned the event would mark the start of the fundraising campaign for the landscaping project. She also provided details on the types of sponsorships available. In addition, Jamie called for volunteers within the SPL Board of Trustees to help during the event.

Director's Report: Beth provided an update on the building issues especially i) the squirrel damage on the windows in the Children section (contractor has performed a test to fix the wood damage without having to replace the windows); and ii) AV issues (functionality in several meeting rooms; need for staff training and user manual; define set up for zoom calls; etc.), where the contractor has finally responded to Beth's email and seems to be re-engaged.

Beth is managing the contractors together with Paul Zaicek, Village Capital Projects Manager, who has been kept informed of the progress (and lack of thereof). Beth has scheduled a one-on-one meeting with Paul to discuss details and next steps, as the Board continues to be concerned with the ongoing building issues and required the help of the Village staff to deal with the ongoing situations.

President's Report: Gary started by welcoming the new Trustees: Scott Gerwin; Diksha Mudbhary, Betty Pforzheimer and Stephanie Wechsler. Then, Gary explained the importance of the SPL goals for 2022 detailing that these are vision statements and "big picture" items and, after being approved, these will be complemented with specific objectives that are measurable. Gary also mentioned that the goals and objectives will serve as the basis for Beth's annual performance appraisal (or review) by the Trustees.

A motion was made by Betty, and seconded by Stephanie to approve the Goals for 2022. The motion was approved.

Gary moved on to explain the importance of all Trustees understanding what is expected of them and the availability of online courses and on-site training, provided by the Westchester Library System. Gary added that last year the State of New York passed a law requiring Trustees to complete, at least, 2 hours of formal training. Gary added that the mandatory requirement will take effect in 2023.

Gary mentioned that the current SPL Board set up includes three (3) committees: the Officer Nominating Committee, the Landscaping Committee and the Interior Signage Committee. Pedro asked if there was any intention to increase the number of committees, providing examples such as Marketing and External Communications Committee, HR and Internal Staff Committee, Facilities Committee. Gary responded that it is a possibility that will stem from the current review of mission and roles and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees.

Landscape Master Plan: Gary explained that the vote for the plan did not mean that the Trustees agreed with all the details of the plan; it rather means that they acknowledge the importance of having a final master plan as a blueprint to implement in the future. Gary further clarified that the plan was financed completely by a generous donation from the FoSL and that its implementation will also be funded directly by FoSL fundraising efforts. A motion was made by Laura, and seconded by Jordan to approve the landscaping plan. The motion was approved.

Comments from the public: Robin Stettinisch addressed the Board and requested clarity on her legal rights for picketing during the FoSL fundraising event on May 20th 2022, specifically any differences regarding time and location constraints that might be different from her current picketing activity at the library entrance.

A motion to go into **Executive Session** to discuss staff issues was made by Robert at 8:05 p.m., and seconded by Betty. At 8:35 p.m. a motion was made by Robert, and seconded by Pedro, to exit Executive Session.

Gary adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.