

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

June 13, 2022

Meeting Room South

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held on June 13, 2022.

The following participants were in attendance: Gary Katz, President; Laura Liu, VP, Pedro Ladislau, Secretary; Robert Jeremiah, Trustee; Scott Gerwin, Trustee; Stephanie Wechsler, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Catherine Callegari, Assistant Director of Patron Services; Mona Longman, Treasurer of the Friends of the Scarsdale Library.

Members of the public: Robin Stettinisch, Diane Greenwald, Lindsay Lindeman, Harry Jacobson.

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

Approval of Minutes of the May 2, 2022 meeting: A motion was made by Robert, and seconded by Laura, to approve the minutes of the prior regular meeting. The motion was approved.

Approval of Minutes of the June 7, 2022 special meeting: A motion was made by Robert, and seconded by Scott, to approve the minutes of the prior extraordinary meeting. The motion was approved.

Summer Internship Program: Diane Greenwald introduced Lindsay Lindeman and Harry Jacobson, the two students from the Scarsdale High School selected for the summer internship program at the SPL, as part of the “senior options” program. Lindsay and Harry will mostly work on the inventory and catalog of the SPL art collection, and provide recommendations for its future display and usage.

Friends of the Scarsdale Library (FoSL) Report: Mona provided an update on the recent fundraising event: “Evening Under the Stars”. She mentioned the event was a success, despite the unstable weather, that caused the venue to be held indoors. She mentioned the event was at full attendance, with tickets being sold out one week prior to the event. Mona added that the event was the formal kick-off of the “library in the park” campaign, which includes the selling of pavers (same dimension and costs as the ones at the SPL entrance) to raise funds for the additional improvements included in the “library in the park” project.

Mona concluded her remarks by referring that the recent SPL newsletter, “Bookmarks”, was mailed to all Scarsdale residents, and included a small envelope for donations to the FoSL.

Director’s Report: Beth provided an update on the building issues especially highlighting the i) conclusion of the repairs in the Children’s room windows and good traction on the ii) HVAC issues and the iii) AV issues. Beth added that the progress on the last two items would not have been possible without the close involvement of Rob Cole and Paul Zaicek, from the Village.

Robert complimented Erin, the new children’s librarian, who managed an activity with an attendance of 150 kids and toddlers in the SPL lawn. Robert also mentioned the increasingly good statistics with regards to the teen participation in events.

Laura asked about an SPL program related to “game night” to foster integration of high school freshmen with other teens. Beth responded that the program is being considered but cautioned that teen programs that are not directly originated and managed by teens tend to have lower participation.

Gary asked about the timing of the opening of the “maker space”. Catherine answered that the goal is to open it in September 2022. Catherine mentioned that the equipment has been purchased and the space will be open on a program and project basis.

Catherine mentioned that Erika, the SPL marketing manager, put together paper guides/ leaflets to improve the patron’s experience at the library. Currently, these guides are available for several topics and sections: “adults”, “children”, “reserve a room” and “welcome to the library”.

President’s Report: Gary mentioned the importance of Trustee training and provided a link to the “handbook club event”, managed by the Westchester Library system.

Gary also provided clarity on the existing SPL Board committees: two standing committees (Bylaws and Policy) and a Nominating committee, to propose next year’s SPL Officers. In addition, Gary mentioned that the Board could create ad hoc committees. Currently there are two ad hoc committees, the Signage committee (where Betty is a member) and the Landscape Masterplan Committee (where Gary and Jordan are members).

Comments from the public: none.

At 8:11pm, a motion was made by Laura and seconded by Stephanie to enter into Executive Session.

At 8:26pm, a motion was made by Scott and seconded by Stephanie to exit Executive Session.

Without further discussions, Gary adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.