

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

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm.

1. **Approval of the minutes from July 15, 2024:** Robert moved to approve the minutes from the July 15th meeting of the Library Board. Betty seconded the motion, and the motion was approved with none opposed.

2. **Report from Friends of Scarsdale Library:** Mona Longman gave an update on behalf of the Friends of the Scarsdale Library, sharing that the fundraising goal of \$2,000,000 for the landscaping project has been met, following a surge in contributions in June and July, as the end of the paver program approached. The Friends would like to raise some additional funds to help cover ongoing landscaping maintenance once the initial project is complete. In addition, the Friends are having a fundraiser at Beach Point Club on October 17th to raise money in support of Library programming and other projects.

3. **Gift Resolution.** Jennifer made a motion to accept a gift in the amount of \$61,160.76 from the Friends of the Scarsdale Library in support of the Library's Landscape Master Plan. Pedro seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously

4. **Director's Report:** Beth gave her director's report, sharing that the sculpture on Library grounds has been reinstalled by the Village. Beth also noted that cost estimates for the landscape project have been received from the landscape architect and site engineer, and were higher than expected and substantially exceed the current budget for this project. The Landscape Committee is investigating ways to reduce cost, including by engaging Scarsdale Village DPW for some of the work and by using less expensive materials in some places. The committee is also evaluating reducing the scope of the project, including potentially eliminating the improvements to the area between Post Road and the parking lot, as well as the performance patio outside of the children's room. The committee will analyze the proposed cost reductions in the coming weeks and expects to make a recommendation for approval by the full board at the October Library board meeting. Beth also noted that the Apiary's lease of the Library cafe space expires in November, and that she does not expect that lease to be renewed. Beth is working with Village staff to send out an RFP for a new vendor to operate the cafe space. Beth noted that Library usage was extremely high over the summer, with over 23,000 visitors in each of July and August. Beth also noted some upcoming programs at the Library including a film program with the League of Women of Voters on September 21st, and a program with the SPCA in October. In advance of the next strategic planning process, the Library wants to gather data on who is attending high-demand programs, and will be asking for library card information at registration.

5. **President's Report:** Jordan gave a brief president's report noting that the landscape project work has been taking a lot of time, but that he hopes to refocus attention on other 2024-25 library goals soon.

Jordan adjourned the Board meeting at 8:41