

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library
June 16, 2019
Wayside Cottage

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held at 7:30 pm on June 16, 2019 at Wayside Cottage. The following participants were in attendance: Elyse Klayman, President; Margot Milberg, VP; Gary Katz, Treasurer; Diane Greenwald, Secretary; Felicia Block; Trustee; Deb Morel, Trustee; Svati Shashank, Trustee; and Laura Liu, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Mona Longman, FOSL. Absent: Alan Bey, Trustee and Jane Veron, Village Trustee Liaison

The meeting was called to order at 7.34 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Edits had been made in advance of meeting and no changes were recommended. A motion to accept made by Deb Morel, seconded by Felicia Block –minutes unanimously approved.

Director's Report: Beth referred the Board to her detailed director's report and mentioned the success of the study nights at the high school library.

President's Report: Elyse has several items in the agenda – but nothing to report separately.

Friends of the Scarsdale Library Report: Mona made introductions to new Library Board members – she is the treasurer for the FOSL and liaison this evening. Mona reported that the FOSL participated in the Golden Horseshoe Sidewalk Sale on Friday June 12 and got about 17 Friends donations. They also sold FOSL 'swag' such as branded blankets, Frisbees and notepads. She reported it was a nice afternoon with positive interest and most of the FOSL directors were there. FOSL used a set of mini-posters that show Library project progress and those are now on display in the Library Loft. Posters were passed around to Library Board. Also, FOSL is sponsoring a children's read-a-thon fundraiser for the library for the month of August – sign up has begun. Finally, FOSL started their audit. Mona answered Board questions about the audit process including that March 31 is end of their fiscal year and about their work with the Village, banks, brokerage firms. This year is their 4th full audit based on significant increase from the capital campaign. Mona reported that next year's fundraising might not trigger a full audit (over \$500K) and they might only need a review. In any case, the current accounting firm would remain to do the work.

Building Committee: Diane provided the Board with an update on the project, including that concrete was poured and that permits project to proceed rapidly. We should see a great deal of progress in next weeks. The Village trustees enjoyed a recent site visit. The recent project team meeting revealed some issues with a roof drain plan, a fill removal issue and electrical/mechanical needs in the basement that have caused some delays, but not significant problems. Nonetheless, a meeting has been scheduled with the owner of the GC company to discuss ways to accelerate work in other phases to offset impact on overall project schedule. Diane announced that a meeting is happening this week at Dattner's office to meet with the 2 lowest bids for furniture dealers. Mona mentioned that a community member owns a carpet company and can offer product at cost. Building committee will investigate if this is an option. Finally, Beth and the Village Manager are scheduling a time for a presentation to the Village Trustees in Village Hall on the library project this summer -- date TBD.

Communications: As noted in the Director's report, Linda Fairstein, who came to the library this spring on an unrelated book tour, has been part of a recent news story about her involvement in the Central Park jogger case. Controversial, nasty comments that were of a personal nature were posted on an older social media announcement about her talk and taken down. This issue has prompted discussion about a need for a more robust Library policy for social media. A discussion of the policy options and goals continued with many board members asking questions. Greenburgh Library has a strong policy that the Board agreed was a good launch point for our own. Elyse agreed to take a lead on this policy with Svati and Felicia in support.

A conversation about the new website followed. Elyse acknowledged the staff for quick fixes made during the initial launch and will continue to work to ensure smooth transition. Elyse remains available for oversight and is collecting comments for tweaks and improvements.

Strategic Plan Committee: Margot reported that Plan A was hired, and the contract was finalized, with help from FOSL, who made some contract recommendations. Steering committee met today, including 3 people from our Board, 3 from FOSL and Beth's senior staff. A lot of ground was covered to begin the 7-month effort. The summer will be used to collect and review resources, outreach for interviewing, which begins in July. Round tables will happen in September and retreat in October. Save the date week of Oct 21st – week day starting at 9 – 2:15 at a place in Scarsdale, TBD.

Board voted to enter executive session at 8:29pm to discuss union negotiations. Board voted to exit executive session at 9:21pm.

Meeting is adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Diane Greenwald, Board Secretary