

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library
July 22, 2019
Wayside Cottage**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held at 7:30pm on July 22, 2019 at Wayside Cottage. The following participants were in attendance: Elyse Klayman, President; Margot Milberg, VP; Gary Katz, Treasurer; Felicia Block; Trustee; Deb Morel, Trustee; Svati Shashank, Trustee; and Alan Bey, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Mona Longman, FOSL. Absent: Laura Liu, Trustee, Diane Greenwald, Secretary, and Jane Veron, Village Trustee Liaison.

The meeting was called to order at 7:37pm.

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:38pm to discuss the CSEA contract by a motion by Alan Bey, seconded by Felicia Block. The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:55pm.

Presentation by Plan A Advisors: Evan Kingsley of Plan A Advisors gave a short presentation about the purpose of the strategic planning initiative and the outline of the strategic planning process. The strategic planning initiative began with kickoff meeting on June 17, 2019, and Plan A has been conducting individual phone interviews and in-person group interviews this summer with identified individuals. In early Fall, Plan A will conduct some roundtables with groups of individuals grouped by interest or topic. They also plan to distribute an online survey to the community to gather feedback about the Library. Hard copies will also be available at the Library Loft. Plan A will present early findings to the Steering Committee in September. On October 22, the Library Board and FOSL Board will join Library staff and the Steering Committee for a ¾ day retreat. Outcomes from the visioning retreat include a framework for a strategic plan with detailed planning and indicators of success. The Library Board will approve the strategic plan in January 2020. The Strategic Plan will be useful in a number of ways: providing job descriptions for new Library hires; giving direction to the FOSL on what fundraising efforts will be needed to support Library programs; and identifying goals and objectives for the Library in the renovated space.

Evan then led the Library Board in an exercise to imagine public perception of the Library three years after the opening, including how we hope the Library to be viewed by the community, specific interest groups and the broader community. Findings were summarized.

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

Director's Report: Beth referred the Board to her detailed director's report. She mentioned that she applied for another construction grant from NYS. The Governor's approval of the funding will affect how much money can be shared among libraries. In

the application, we must demonstrate that we will do the construction even without receiving the grant.

President's Report: Elyse reported on a recent trip she made with Beth, Diane and Dara Gruenberg to the Westport Public Library. The group met with an employee of the Westport Library who gave them a tour and highlighted certain aspects of the Library. The employee also shared about the Westport Library's recent reopening and the events they planned to showcase the renovated features.

Friends of the Scarsdale Library Report: Mona reported on the children's read-a-thon fundraiser for the library for the month of August – sign up has begun and has been robust. FOSL is also working on the return of the Spelling Bee on January 31 at Scarsdale High School. Teams will compete and will pay an entry fee. FOSL is trying to solidify an emcee. Elyse offered to follow up with one of the suggested names if FOSL is unable to reach him.

Building Committee: Beth provided the Board with an update on the project. She was there last week and can really see the expanded building taking shape. The beams are visible, and the size of the building is becoming more apparent. Beth will try and schedule more tours soon for the Board and donors. Beth also mentioned that Savin will try and find a way to accelerate work in other phases so that the project is back on track with the timing. The construction manager has milestones to show that we are on track.

Communications Committee: Website is being used now by patrons and the community. We are still making minor tweaks and improvements. Elyse mentioned that training will begin for Library staff on how to use subtle aspects of the website.

Meeting is adjourned at 9:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Margot Milberg, filling in for Diane Greenwald, Board Secretary