

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library
February 8, 2021, Via Zoom Conference**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held on February 8, 2021 via ZOOM conference as per executive order of the NYS Governor's office, responding to COVID-19 social distancing regulations.

The following participants were in attendance: Margot Milberg, President; Felicia Block, VP; Gary Katz, Financial Officer; Laura Liu, Secretary; Alan Bey, Trustee; Elyse Klayman, Trustee; Deb Morel, Trustee; Svati Shashank, Trustee; Jordan Copeland, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Shira Ronis Barkoe, Asst. Director; Sarah Rodriguez, Children's Librarian; Rochelle Waldman, Village Trustee Liaison; Michelle Lichtenberg, FOSL.

The meeting was called to order at 7:33pm.

Approval of Minutes of the January 11, 2021 Meeting: Motion was made by Svati Shashank and seconded by Gary Katz to approve the January meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved.

Friends of the Scarsdale Library Report: Michelle reported that FOSL had formed two committees to work on the flower fundraiser and the spring planting event. There are still lots of unknowns about pandemic safety measures, but the committees are starting to brainstorm ideas. The FOSL members have also been supporting the Apiary at the Library in the past month.

The FOSL has announced its new slate of officers. Dara Gruenberg will serve as President for two more years. Loretta Vickers and Jamie Kefer are Vice Presidents. Lori Harrison will serve one more year as secretary and Mona Longman will continue as Treasurer. Laura Sheppe Miller joined the Board as a new member.

Director's Report: In addition to her written report, Beth reported that she was still waiting on quotes to repair the squirrel damage in the children's room. The new HVAC filters came in, and the technicians had been adjusting the airflow settings. Beth and Margot met with the Apiary Cafe's manager Laura to discuss their operations. The plan is to increase their exposure on social media. Board members are encouraged to help with this effort.

Deb asked about feedback on the budget presentation. Rochelle reported that there had not been any major changes proposed on the library budget.

Beth introduced Children's Librarian Sarah Rodriguez who served on the Caldecott Award Committee this year. Sarah shared her experience; including reading 600 picture books and selecting the most distinguished picture books of the year on the 15-person committee over 5 days of Zoom discussions. At the end, the committee selected 4 honor books and a winner, *We Are Water Protectors*, illustrated by Michaela Goade and written by Carole Lindstrom.

Felicia and Margot suggested posting these award-winning books on the website, social media and thinking about programs around them. Shira mentioned that the Heathcote School Librarian Cathrine Sorensen was also on the committee this year. It is rare to have two representatives from one town.

Sarah also talked about her routine responsibilities as Children's Librarian, including: running the weekly Mother Goose program, selecting and ordering books, answering phone calls and emails, responding to reference questions and helping patrons with book suggestions, reading library journals and improving services. Sarah left the meeting after her presentation.

President's Report: Margot thanked Elyse and Alan for their service on the Nominating Committee. The slate put forward is: Felicia Block as President, Gary Katz as Vice President, Svati Shashank as Secretary; and Laura Liu as Financial Officer. The Board will vote on this slate at the March meeting.

Margot reported on the success of the virtual Youth Art Show. Around seventy people attended the virtual gallery tour. The high school students on the organizing committee did a great job. Both Beth and the Teen Librarian Jennifer Brinley spoke at the event.

Felicia reported that the WLS Trustee Institute has several upcoming training opportunities. The session on March 3rd titled "Trustee Roles and Responsibilities" is a very relevant one. Felicia encouraged all board members to register, schedule permitting.

The advocacy efforts to add public library staff to the NYS vaccine eligibility category 1b was ongoing. Recently the State added taxi drivers and restaurant workers to the list, but not yet for library staff. Beth, Margot and several other Board members have written and called legislators. Assemblywoman Amy Paulin had been supportive of this effort. Margot encouraged board members to write more letters. Michelle suggested that we send the letter templates to Dara so FOSL members can also help.

The Board discussed the recent posts on Facebook questioning the Library's reopening plans. Margot had provided a response on behalf of the Library Board saying we will continue to listen to the public, work in partnership with the staff and work toward a safe re-opening. The Board thanked Margot for working on this communication. Felicia suggested that the positive way to use social media would be to post events information regularly to connect people with Library programs and services.

Building Update: Beth reported that work on the punch list items were progressing. The HVAC filters were installed and functioning. The automatic door contractor would come soon to implement the automatic mechanism. Window shades for the sunny side need to be installed. Beth is getting quotes. Michelle and Beth discussed storage space for community group files in the basement and storage procedures going forward.

Opening Exhibition Update: Elyse reported that the exhibition organizers had been looped in on reopening discussions. When the plans are more flushed out, they will be ready to hire the contractor to hang up the art. Gallery rods and hooks for both the hallway and the Scott Room for the “Hometown Heroes” exhibition have been ordered. Beth mentioned that some of the Library’s permanent artwork is in storage with the Westchester Historical Society, and the rest is in the building, but not yet unwrapped.

Communications Committee Report: The students have completed the videos with final edits. Felicia received it today but had not had a chance to review it yet. We should be thoughtful about when to release them, especially given the current discussions around reopening. Felicia was excited that Teya had now joined the staff full time. She will be a great addition to communications efforts.

Next Year’s Board Meeting dates: Margot led the Board to discuss 2021-2022 Board Meeting dates, especially around Columbus Day and other holidays. The Board will approve the dates at the March meeting.

Svati asked about which library policies are still outstanding. Margot responded that the Policy Committee is working on the Reopening Policy. A special Board meeting will be convened to approve it before reopening. The Meeting Room Policy is also outstanding. There is no time pressure because indoor gatherings still won’t happen for some time.

Margot adjourned the meeting at 8:39pm.