

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library
September 14, 2020, Via Zoom Conference**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held on September 14, 2020 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; Elyse Klayman, Trustee; Deb Morel, Trustee; Alan Bey, Trustee; Jordan Copeland, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Shira Ronis Barkoe, Asst. Director. Rochelle Waldman, Village Trustee Liaison; Jane Veron, outgoing Village Trustee Liaison; Michelle Lichtenberg, FOSL. Svati Shashank, Trustee was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 7:34pm.

Approval of Minutes of the July 13 Meeting: No changes were made. Motion was made by Gary Katz and seconded by Deb Morel to approve the July meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved.

Friends of the Scarsdale Library Report: Michelle reported that the FOSL would be hosting an author event on October 8th via Zoom, "Unacceptable: Privilege, Deceit and the Making of the College Admissions Scandal" with authors Melissa Korn and Jennifer Levitz. Dara Gruenberg will be moderating.

The FOSL had been working with Gary on donor recognition for the re-opening. The Friends Board were scheduled to meet on Wednesday 9/16 to discuss future fundraising ideas.

Director's Report: In addition to her written report, Beth reported that hiring had been a highlight of her recent work. She and her staff had interviewed some exciting candidates and held internal discussions, working to build the best team for the future library.

President's Report: Margot reported on her recent visit to the new building. The space had really been transformed. It was very exciting to see the place taking shape with colors, lighting, furniture and books.

Building Committee Update: Beth reported that furniture had been moved in. Some old furniture would need to be donated or disposed of otherwise. Almost all shelving had been installed. The staff had started to put books back on the shelves and might need some volunteer help with that. Felicia mentioned that many high school students had service hours to fulfill and this could be a good project for them.

It was recently brought to Beth's attention that the parking lot lights needed to be replaced. Beth would get quotes and work with the Village to plan for this. The new lights would be LEDs and energy-efficient. Now that the main project was nearing completion, the Building Committee had been tying up loose ends such as this one.

Café Committee Update: Alan commended Roberta for her diligence working on the project and keeping everyone on track. The Committee's outreach efforts produced around a dozen leads who expressed interests. Three businesses toured the site. So far only Apiary from Larchmont submitted their RFP. The Committee would follow up again with other vendors including Martine's in the village and the Metro Deli in Heathcote. The Committee will next meet on Wednesday 9/16.

No doubt that the Covid situation had created huge challenges for the restaurant business. In this environment, foot traffic at the library would be light due to restrictions on access, making the proposition less appealing to potential operators. The Committee might need to consider deferring the café or starting with refrigerated items only. On the flip side, if patron visits were to be limited to a short period of time, reduced or postponed café service might not be a big issue.

Library Opening Committee Report: Given the current social distancing requirements, opening events would have to be scaled back significantly from what was envisioned before the pandemic. The Committee had been planning on ways to commemorate the reopening and recognize the donors. Things were in flux and some events might be postponed to the spring. The Committee hoped to have more information at the next meeting.

Beth has surveyed local peer libraries on how they handled patron visits. Many places only offered curb-side no-contact services. Some used an appointment booking system and patrons visited during their reserved time slots. Some operated by limiting the number of people in the building, i.e., they would stop admitting people when the number inside reached a certain limit. Some places had age limits because it was hard for young kids to practice social distance. The Committee would take these into consideration when planning for our policies.

Photo Exhibition Update: Lauren Bender, FOSL, has been curating the exhibit with her team. They had visited the site to scope out the space. Jordan did research on the 1918 pandemic for a historical comparison to add to the exhibit.

Lauren's team and the Board came up with many good ideas for the exhibit, including the Front Porch pictures, hometown heroes, Tanya Singer's knitting, screening of the short film "Scenes From a New Normal" made by high school students, poetry by local poets, the painted rocks by a Quaker Ridge resident, culinary responses by residents, and homemade masks. Local press would help garner public interest. The team was also planning a Zoom event about the exhibit and a book/pamphlet for archival purposes as well as for sale as a fundraiser.

Communications Committee Report: The Communications Committee is planning a press release for late September. It would keep the community updated and excited that we were moving back.

The Committee worked with Shira and her staff on social media posts, and also with a group of teens on a video project to be posted on multiple platforms. The team planned to produce both a short teaser video with images, and a longer video with narrations and interviews.

Two banners were scheduled to go up in mid-October to announce the reopening, one at the Post Road Five Corners, and the other in Chase Park. The FOSL and Diane Greenwald had been working on a special issue of Bookmarks announcing the reopening, scheduled to arrive in mailboxes in late October.

Margot adjourned the meeting at 8:19pm.

Margot led the Board in a sweet send-off for Trustee Veron, recognizing her exemplary volunteerism and impact in the Village and specifically her strong support to the Library.