

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library (SPL)

March 13, 2023

Scott Room

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held on March 13, 2023.

The following participants were in attendance: Gary Katz, President; Laura Liu, Vice-President; Jordan Copeland, Financial Officer; Pedro Ladislau, Secretary; Robert Jeremiah, Trustee; Betty Pforzheimer, Trustee, Diksha Mudbhary, Trustee; Scott Gerwin, Trustee; Stephanie Wechsler, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Catherine Callegari, Assistant Director of Patron Services; Mona Longman, Friends of the Scarsdale Library; Karen Brew, Village Trustee Liaison

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of the February 13, 2023 meeting: A motion was made by Laura, and seconded by Jordan, to approve the minutes of the prior regular meeting. The motion was approved.

Friends of the Scarsdale Library Report: Mona said that the FOSL are currently transitioning to having two new Co-Presidents, Nancy Kaplan and Stacey Meyer, and new Board members, all starting their tenure on April 1, 2023. Mona added that the new Co-Presidents will meet with Beth soon to discuss future plans for the FOSL and SPL needs. Mona finalized her update mentioning that the fundraising for the “Library in the Park” campaign is going well regarding pledges and funds.

Director’s Report: Beth mentioned she did not have anything to add besides what was shared in the Director’s report distributed ahead of this meeting.

President’s Report: Gary acknowledged the wonderful programs and services delivered by the SPL dedicated staff as reported in the Director’s report, including i) the reading retreats for the middle school students led by Jennifer; ii) the research help from Dan that supports the curiosity and work of the patrons; and iii) the multi-tasking leadership by Catherine that makes much of the Library’s success possible.

Gary mentioned that as the Library’s terms are winding down, the time is coming to review Beth’s annual performance, and recommend Library goals for next year. Beth is planning to complete her self-assessment by end of March for the Board to review. After receiving Beth’s self-assessment, all Board Members will complete their own assessment of Beth’s performance and Gary will centralize the feedback and summarize it in to one shared assessment of the Board and will discuss it with Beth after the April Board meeting. Gary added that the library goals for next year will be shared with the Board for comments and suggestions and they will be on the agenda for discussion at the April meeting, with the goals of being an action item for approval at the May meeting.

Gary said that the Nominating Committee, composed of him, Stephanie, Scott and Betty had met to recommend the officers for the Library Board for next year. The Committee reached a consensus of recommending the following members for the following positions: Laura as President, Jordan as Vice President, Robert as Financial Officer and Diksha as Secretary. A motion was made by Stephanie and seconded by Scott to approve the officers for 2023-2024. The motion was approved unanimously.

Gary then moved on to discuss and provide details on additional topics. The first item was the dates for the SPL Board meetings for 2023-2024. A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Betty. The motion was approved unanimously.

The second topic was related to the contract for the new permanent signage for the library. Beth showed samples that were submitted in the selection process. In addition, Beth explained that the company LVCK, with whom the SPL has been working with regarding the concepts for the new signage, was recently acquired by Beyer Blinder Belle Architects LLP. Beth concluded that the Board is being asked to authorize a new contract with the successor entity. A motion was made by Robert and seconded by Betty to approve the new contract with Beyer Blinder Belle Architects and Planners LLP as of the date they acquired LVCK. The motion was unanimously approved. Another motion was made by Betty and seconded by Laura to approve selection of signage fabricator/installer, Big Apple Visual Group. This motion was unanimously approved. The last motion on this topic was made by Betty and seconded by Scott, to transfer \$150,000 from the Library fund balance to the Library operating budget to cover the fabrication and implementation costs of the new signage. The motion was unanimously approved.

The third and final action item was a vote for a resolution to move forward with a disciplinary action as detailed in the formal language provided in Beth's handout. A motion was made by Betty and seconded by Robert. The motion was unanimously approved.

Comments from the public: none.

At 8:10pm, a motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Laura to enter in to **Executive Session**.

At 8:52pm, a motion was made by Stephanie and seconded by Diksha to exit **Executive Session**.

Without further discussions, Gary adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.