

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library February 10, 2020, Wayside Cottage

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held at 7:30 pm on February 10, 2020 at Wayside Cottage. The following participants were in attendance: Elyse Klayman, President; Margot Milberg, VP; Gary Katz, Financial Officer; Diane Greenwald, Secretary; Svati Shashank, Trustee; Laura Liu, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Mona Longman, FOSL representative; Jane Veron, Village Trustee Liaison; Shira Ronis Barkoe, Assistant Library Director. Absent -- Deb Morel, Trustee; Alan Bey, Trustee.

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm.

Approval of Minutes: No changes were indicated and a motion was made by Margot and seconded by Gary to approve the January 13, 2020 meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved.

Strategic Planning Committee: Prior to our normal business meeting, Evan Kingsley from Plan A Advisors, our consultants supporting our strategic plan, presented a draft version of the final plan report.

Evan reviewed the full report, focusing on the process framework, the SWOT analysis, themes of the research, and the goals established over the next few years. The board, having received this version, was able to ask questions and discussion was had. Evan clarified that some of the report research was intended for internal staff use, particularly the tactical section, which was still being developed. There will be a public version of the report would be made available. The mission and vision statement were read aloud to ensure all agreed that this language best reflects the SPL charge. The Board expressed gratitude to Evan and Adam from Plan A, to Beth, Elyse and Margot for their leadership and to the entire strategic planning steering committee.

Director's Report: Beth reported on a meeting she and Shira had that day with 3 of 5 school librarians, with the hope that these meetings will continue. Discussions included the 5th grade Capstone and kindergartener usage, the Young Writers workshop, among other topics. The Board expressed pleasure that library/district relations are expanding.

Jane reported on long discussions going on about investing in the Village pond area adjacent to the Library. From a walk with Friends of the Parks, she reminded the board about the knot weed issues, an invasive species that needs tending and the water and design flaws that impact the environment. With the library soon to open with views to this park, a budget is being discussed toward holistic repairs – about \$20K now; that is a place holder and there will be a phased plan toward comprehensive renovation of that area. Beth also reported that DPW and the Library are well aware of the need for maintenance of a path between SHS and the library, to facilitate access, but also, must deal with unwanted parking issues. Discussions were had about options to dissuade illegal day-long high school parking in library lot.

Friends' Report: Mona offered her thanks to the Board for participating in the Bee. The event was a great success and Mona remarked on how it has transformed over 6 years. With an interlude of 4 years, it came back more robust and still as popular. They raised twice as much as in previous years. The raise nearly rivals with book sale, and that is just for one night, without the

significant disruption that has occurred with the book sale in the past. All agreed it was a great success – a fun night with many different ways to contribute.

Discussions continued about the possibility of a crossword puzzle event in the future, which was met with enthusiasm. The Friends are looking for other balanced, egalitarian and open ways to engage the community and continue fundraising efforts.

President's Report: Elyse offered her heartfelt gratitude to the FOSL for holding the Bee. She reviewed the meeting dates for next year and asked board members to review their calendars and they will approve next month. She reminded the board that new committees are forming or formed – and that FOSL signed up at their last meeting and that staff will join too. Diane confirmed that the nominating committee members includes Svati and Laura – and herself.

Building Committee: Diane and Beth reported on the ongoing work of the Signage Subcommittee. Diane and Beth are working with Melissa Biffert to finalize the detailed list for donor recognition before moving any other items forward. They also reported on the efforts of the Concession Subcommittee, which plans to meet again after the February break, and is awaiting updates from the Village. Roberta Stein-Ham is spearheading this work.

The building committee reported that the Village passed the resolutions to transfer our funds to the capital project to cover the furniture costs. The board reviewed the most recent memo on the project finances, which was submitted to the village and forwarded to the Board. The project is newly facing setbacks, due in large part to delays of lighting fixtures, which makes ceiling work hard to complete. The board discussed the options available for making up lost time and the efforts underway to mitigate cost increases. The reality is this may impact opening date, but hopefully only by a matter of weeks, in terms of public expectation.

Policy Committee: The committee is working under Shira's guidance and a vote to approve all of them is planned for next meeting. The board discussed the hope to receive the red lined versions in order to facilitate understanding about changes made. The board asked for the comments section to be left on. Questions were answered about research for policies, use of old policies as guides and referencing other public libraries to get boilerplate text and ideas.

Special Programs and Opening Day Committees: Discussion included a variety of topics about timing, planning efforts and need for flexibility, inclusion of Village personnel, need for liaisons into many populations to ensure everyone feels welcomed and informed, the need for more group tours to energize volunteers, a July summer event for donors in the building. Elyse reported on brainstorming and efforts for special programs and special guests for reopening. Elyse and Margot asked for the Board to consider their own personal networks to help reach out for exciting opening events for our patrons.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23pm

Respectfully Submitted by Diane Greenwald, Board Secretary