

OSSINING PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, May 17, 2021, 7:00 p.m., Remote

MEETING MINUTES

The following people acknowledged their presence remotely:

Board of Trustees: Matthew Weiss, President; Alice Joselow, Vice President;
Cecilia Quintero, Secretary; Amanda Curley, Althema Goodson,
Lucinda Manning, Shandi Speller

Staff: Karen LaRocca-Fels, Director; Molly Robbins, Assistant Director;
Kathy Beirne, Secretary to Library Director

Others: Dennis Neuberger, President of *The Friends*; Jonathan Marshall, WLS
Board Trustee, District 2, Ossining/Tarrytown/Briarcliff; Leslie Allen, *The
Foundation*

Call to Order

At 7:01 p.m. President Matthew Weiss called the May 17, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was virtually recited by those participating.

Friends of the Library Update: Dennis Neuberger, President, commented on the following:

- Financial Update
- Status on Renovations and Repair
- Update on Events for Summer and the Rest of 2021
- Status of 5000 Room – after June 15th Friends can use it again!
- YTD Homebound & Organization Activity – limited
- DVDs for Veterans
- Coin box started again at front desk
- 2021 Scholarship Awards: Four 2021 Awards

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion to Accept the Minutes of the April 19, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board
Alice Joselow moved and Amanda Curley seconded the motion to approve the April 19,
2021 Revised Meeting Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to Accept the Revised April 28, 2021 Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
Alice Joselow moved and Amanda Curley seconded the motion to approve the revised
Special Meeting Minutes. Motion passed. Lucinda Manning abstained.

Public Comment

Jonathan Marshall, WLS Board Trustee, commented on:

- Discussion re: IT billing for 2021-2022 – what is the best way to move forward?
- Other library Board members are getting involved in the discussion
- COVID reopening; Project Hope

Director's Report and Personnel Report

- Outside staff entrance door auto assist, security cameras, employee intercom system installed
- Budget Vote tomorrow
- Sunday hours resumed
- Requests to use meeting spaces
- LRSP work going along well with departments
- Bethel Arts Center
- Ossining Equity Task Force – Co-Chair Althema Goodson invited Karen to speak
- Annual Report status

Committee Reports

Foundation:

Leslie Allen commented on the following:

- Interest in meeting with Ossining Task Force
- Leadership maps – how to get more people on the Foundation Board
- Thank you to Dennis for re-engaging the Friends
- Pivoting from a short-range plan to a long-range plan
- Engagement of Advisory Board with members of other organizations, i.e., The Ossining Children's Center, Teatown, Bethany Arts Center

President's Report:

Follow-up: Village Water Properties Tax Exemption

After last month's special meeting and vote on this issue, I asked our Director to invite the Village Manager, Karen D'Attore, and the Village Corporate Counsel, Stuart Kahan, to our May meeting.

I feel there is an opportunity to learn from the process we all experienced. We were presented with a situation that was new to us and we lacked any expertise in property taxation. When the Corporate Counsel sent us a letter, it was yet another new experience for this Board. We don't know why our effort was elevated to become a legal matter.

I asked our Director to refer the letter to our attorney for qualification. It was confirmed that the opinion of the Village counsel was accurate.

Karen D'Attore spoke with me in response to being asked to our Board meeting. She suggested that the Tax Assessor, Fernando Gonzalez, is the best person to address taxing issues. After reviewing their schedules, the three Village officials are now available to attend our June 14, 2021 meeting.

Follow-up: OPL Profile

A new profile (or fact sheet) has been produced for public distribution (Thank you Mallory!). I have emailed it to the Village Mayor, Town Supervisor, School Superintendent, OPL Friends, OPL Foundation, and a half dozen real estate firms in the community.

This is a great piece for the Friends and Foundation to solicit members, or funds. We can create a poster-sized version to place in the library on display for events in the Theater. Use it often.

Matt noted that the Village is not holding an Ossining Fair this year. Should the library plan on doing something? Mini-Summer Fair to tie into a Book Fair?

Policy and Bylaws & Personnel:

Amanda noted that the Policy Committee has not been able get to the policies due to their engagement with the LRSP – hard to carve out additional time.

Regarding a request from the BOE to use the theater on July 8, from 8 AM-4 PM for their retreat, since the theater is being refurbished – painting, new carpeting – the Board chose to deny their request.

“Rising Above” after school youth program asked to designate OPL as a relocation place in case of emergency – the Board approved this request.

Finance Committee:

Proposed 2021-2022 Budget Vote Tomorrow, May 18, 2021

Building and Grounds

Thank you, Molly, for getting OPL through the pandemic and moving toward reopening.

Long Range Strategic Planning Committee:

Report from Michael Holmes, INSIGHTS4U – Michael unable to attend meeting.

Molly, Karen, Michael Holmes and Mallory are working on feedback from departments and are putting it all together.

Althema asked how the Deep Dive meetings are going? Are they worth it? Shandi feel they are not necessary. Matt’s goal is full transparency and access.

Shandi asked about additional programming for high school aged teens – how to attract more teens in this age group.

It is a challenge to connect with the teen age group due to COVID. OPL is planning to have much more robust programs in the summer. Teen room facelift in the works.

Althema asked for more Adult programming.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION #97 – Acceptance of Donations

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees accepts, with gratitude, the following donations:

- \$1,000 donation by Sharon Blalog for the Children’s Room
- \$ 200 donation by Philip Just for the Library’s collection of books

Cecilia Quintero moved and Alice Joselow seconded the motion to approve Resolution #97. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION #98 – Personnel Change

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the following personnel change:

Name	Position	Department	FT/PT	Pay Rate	Effect. Date
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Reclassification:

Suzanne Zavarella	Librarian I	Teen Services	FT	\$70,947.67	5/05/2021
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Alice Joselow moved and Cecilia Quintero seconded the motion to approve Resolution #98. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Matt commented on the possibility of increasing FT staffing – add to Board To Do List.

New Business

- Censored Books – what was the motivation for removing Dr. Seuss books?
The Dr. Seuss Foundation: several of the books that are no longer published could be perceived as having potentially racist images. Those have been placed on our Reference Shelf for now.

Public Comment

Jonathan Marshall suggested that we reach out to Elena Falcone to find out about her activities.

Caste will be added to the June 14th meeting.

Executive Session

At 8:26 PM Amanda Curley moved and Alice Joselow seconded the motion to enter into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

At 8:30 PM Cecilia Quintero moved and Althema Goodson seconded the motion to leave Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

At 8:31 PM Cecilia Quintero moved and Shandi Speller seconded the motion to adjourn the May 17, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Motion passed unanimously.

THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IS MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Beirne
Secretary to Library Director