

OSSINING PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Monthly Meeting (Rescheduled)
Monday, June 21, 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;
Mallory Marinaro, Marketing and Communications; Kathy Beirne,
Secretary to Library Director

Others: Dennis Neuberger, President of *The Friends*; Michael Holmes,
INSIGHTS4U; Jonathan Marshall, WLS Board Trustee, District 2;
Ossining Village Manager, Karen D'Attore, Village Counsel, Stuart
Kahan, Esq.

Call to Order

At 7:02 p.m. President Matthew Weiss called the June 21, 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
- Carpet in Budarz Theater, Robert Goodenough Painting restoration, Teen Room –New Items and New Outdoor table set
- Have not received invoices for the carpet, painting or teen room
- UPDATE ON EVENTS FOR THE SUMMER AND THE REST OF 2021
- Will be able to decide on events within 30 days
- STATUS OF 5000 ROOM
- Friends and volunteers will meet tomorrow to resume operations
- YTD HOMEBOUND & ORGANIZATION ACTIVITY
- Sunshine Children's Home and American Legion have started to accept DVD's
- Peace Corps on hold
- Limited Homebound activity
- 2021 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS - 4 applicants will be awarded scholarships this month
- COIN DROP - Box of donated coins again available at checkout desk for children to use if parents or teachers do not have coins

- AS A VOLUNTEER GROUP, WE ARE COMMITTED TO ACCEPTING ALL VOLUNTEERS AND NOMINATIONS FOR FRIENDS BOARD
- THANK YOU TO THE OSSINING LIBRARY FOR BEING SO DEDICATED TO THE COMMUNITY

Moved up in the agenda:

Old Business

- Village Water Properties – Discussion with Village Manager, Karen D’Attore, Village Counsel, Stuart Kahan

Ultimately, since the Library Board of Trustees’ resolution vote was not germane, Matt wanted to take some time to discuss how we can improve communication with the Village/Town in the future.

Karen D’Attore commented on the basic issue that was the tax on water treatment plants located in the Village and owned by the Town. It is a different from a property tax – water rate is different. It’s been about 35 years since Ossining has had any major capital improvement on water processing. The cost will be upwards of \$40,000,000 which will create a major impact on property values. It wasn’t until the Board of Education voted to exempt the properties that the Tax Assessor said the two taxing entities cannot be separated. This would most likely pertain to any future tax exemption. Matt asked if we should refer such exemptions to our attorney – the response was yes – not a bad idea.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion to Accept the Minutes of the May 17, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board.

Alice Joselow moved and Amanda Curley seconded the motion to approve the May 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Motion passed 5-0.

Motion to Accept the June 7, 2021 Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Alice Joselow moved and Amanda Curley seconded the motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes. Motion passed 5-0.

Public Comment

Jon Marshall, WLS Board Trustee District 2, commented on the following:

- IT discussions with the WLS Board and PLDA going forward – they are finalizing the second half of 2021 and beginning with 2022.
- He will forward summary of WLS Outreach Programs
- WLS Survey – should have results by end of June

The Foundation

- In Leslie Allen’s absence Karen noted that they are trying to identify new Board members. Pam Thornton, retired Library Director of Chappaqua and Ossining resident, is the new Treasurer. They are reaching out to others also.

Moved up in the agenda:

Long Range Strategic Planning Committee:

- *Report from Michael Holmes, INSIGHTS4U & Proposed Long Range Strategic Plan*

Karen began the discussion stating that the Board received the finalized template that they would walk through, pointing out the highlights.

Michael asked the Board to remember the context of the engagement. The schedule was kept to and additional details of the plan had been added. We have already started executing some parts of the plan.

Karen pointed out that they had initially intended to pull in community groups, but more work with staff was needed.

Karen also commented on the great work of the committee. Next steps – draft version of public portion and need for translation.

Michael will be with us through the end of June. He and Karen are in discussion about the future.

Director's Report and Personnel Report

- Closing out of boiler installation
- Security cameras
- New Theater carpeting and Teen Room furniture
- Technology improvements
- Opening up is moving fast
- Expect to be back to regular summer hours by July 6
- We are lifting mask requirements for those vaccinated – starting 6/22/21 masks optional but still required in Children's Room
- Many libraries around Westchester making the same decisions
- Moving staff back to regular office spaces
- Diana and Karen interviewing for Librarian II, Spanish Speaking. Second round will be with 6 qualified candidates
- Mobile self-checkout soft launch with WLS app
- Teen gardening program starting up again with Greenburgh Nature Center

Committee Reports

President's Report:

Matt commented on the next meeting of the Board on July 12 is the Reorganization Meeting including nominations of officers. He encouraged Board Members to think about taking on a role of President, Vice President, or Secretary.

Caste and Summer Reading

The author of *Caste*, Isabel Wilkerson, subtitled her book "The Origins of Our Discontents". I am determined to read her book this summer and invite all Trustees to join me. My intention is to read Parts 1-4 in July and Parts 5-7 in August.

This means that on July 12 we could add a discussion of the book to our agenda. Should this be too ambitious, please suggest another schedule.

Transactional vs. Relational

Without a doubt, the Friends of the OPL have done a great service to the library and all its patrons by sponsoring the new carpeting installed in the theater. I feel that the library may have missed an opportunity to gain community support and involvement.

The sale was made by the carpet vendor and the transaction is now complete. This is little more than a transactional experience for them.

By positioning an interaction with the library as relational, we gain trust and community advocacy. This could have been accomplished by having made the carpet installation an event. The vendor could be invited to a photo session as the installation was completed. We could have published the photo on our media with the vendor's name.

Then, we could introduce the local businessperson to our Friends or Foundation. Perhaps the business, or its owner, could join the FOL or OLF. Maybe we could set up a local business council that would act as an advisory group to the FOL or OLF or the OPL. The details need to be worked out. Once the transaction is completed, the relational experience begins.

This scenario represents a relational experience for the local business. A connection is made and the network evolves. We may be small compared to other local groups, but the carpet store made a big sale. And Clean Air has received more than half a million dollars from the library this year alone.

Please add your thoughts.

Also, Matt asked for help with moderating this. Karen added that she has copies of *Caste* if any Board member needed one.

Policy and Bylaws & Personnel – No report

Finance Committee – No report

Building and Grounds – Building temperatures have been good. Karen asked if they could start meeting again.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION #99 – Approval of 2020 Annual Report

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the 2020 Annual Report.

Amanda Curley moved and Shandi Speller seconded the motion to approve Resolution #99. Motion passed. 5-0

RESOLUTION #100 – Personnel Change

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

Name	Position	Department	FT/PT	Pay Rate	Effect. Date
<i>Resignation:</i>					
Maggie Leung	Library Clerk (Leave of Absence since 10/27/20)	Circulation	PT	\$19.87/hr.	6/09/2021

Shandi Speller moved and Amanda Curley seconded the motion to approve Resolution #100. Motion passed. 5-0

RESOLUTION #101 – Approval of Proposed 2021 Long Range Strategic Plan

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the Proposed 2021 Long Range Strategic Plan dated 6/14/2021.

Alice Joselow moved and Althema Goodson seconded the motion to approve Resolution #101. Motion passed. 5-0

Public Comment - None

Shandi Speller commented that the LRSP is not a document to share/duplicate by anyone else. It is strictly customized to the Ossining Public Library.

Adjournment

At 8:54 PM Alice Joselow moved and Shandi Speller seconded the motion to adjourn the June 21, 2021, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Motion passed. 5-0

THE ANNUAL REORGANIZATION AND REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 12, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Beirne
Secretary to Library Director