

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OSSINING PUBLIC LIBRARY
Work Session
Thursday, October 5, 2023, 5:00 PM
2nd Floor Conference Room
Ossining Public Library, 53 Croton Ave., Ossining, NY;
41 Secor Rd, Ossining, NY

MINUTES

Attendees

In-person: Cecilia Quintero, Alice Joselow, Amanda Curley, Meghan Huppuch, Karen LaRocca-Fels, Molly Robbins

Remote: Shandi Speller

Call to Order

At 5:03 PM President Amanda Curley called the October 5, 2023 Work Session to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mission and Vision: The Ossining Public Library enriches, connects, and inspires our community and is the community's center for lifelong learning.

Board Discussion

Program Diversity Review – Final Report

Karen LaRocca-Fels presented the Program Diversity Review (February - July 2023) which sought to answer: Are our programs speaking to the diverse audiences in our community? Are the presenters a diverse group?

- Caveats: Small sample size, counted weekly/biweekly programming without diversity focus as individual events (ex. Yoga, knitting, meditation), does not address program participation
- Board members asked questions about the results and current program offerings and noted that while the diversity of programs offered has increased, the data does not tell us whether the audience has become more diverse.
- Karen LaRocca-Fels also shared programming participation survey from 2021. The largest percentage of participants identified as white. The Board asked about what time programs are offered, whether the library has more diverse program participation during weekends and evenings.
- The Board's questions and comments led to a discussion of many other ways that the focus on diversity – and ensuring that the library is truly serving our unique community – has informed library staff's work including diversifying the

library's collections and ensuring that library staff have access to information to refer library users to social services when needed.

- Future:
 - Karen LaRocca-Fels will use this data to inform the library's program diversity goals.
 - Karen LaRocca-Fels will work with library staff to determine the feasibility of conducting simultaneous participation and program diversity reviews.
 - When designing future surveys Karen LaRocca-Fels will consult with Hummingbird about how to ask people about their identities (ex. Mixed race identities were not represented in current survey).
 - Library staff and Board will continue to consider how the library can reach out to engage people who aren't regular library users.

Biennial Trustee Survey Review

Meghan Huppuch recapped the Board's reflection conversation about the Biennial Trustee Survey during the July 20 Work Session and proposed themes that arose from that conversation for Board goals for 2023-2024 (professional development, engagement and outreach, bond and building project).

Meghan Huppuch will draft SMARTIE goals (Strategic, Measurable, Ambitious, Realistic, Time-bound, Inclusive, and Equitable) and share with the Board for discussion during October 16 Regular Meeting.

Buildings and Grounds Update

Molly Robbins shared updates with the Board:

- The second floor conference room is freshly painted. It may be a space to have a small artwork gallery.
- Modular door installed on small meeting room on the first floor near tech services. The library now has four small meeting rooms for 1-4 people.
- The library is still waiting to receive test results from SGH for ground testing related to the retention wall.
- The contract for the survey of the library's property is in progress.
- Lothrop is working on updated pricing based on an updated list of priorities.
- Lothrop has provided information and reviewed materials in support of the library's application for two Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability, and Technology Program (CREST) grants:
 - Over the summer the library submitted an application for a grant to support HVAC work through Senator Harckham's office.
 - More recently, the library applied for a \$250,000 grant through Assemblymember Levenberg's office which has a more programmatic focus.

The Board had a short discussion about the timeline for the bond and what is required for preparation.

Meghan Huppuch shared that she, Karen LaRocca-Fels, Molly Robbins, Mallory Marinaro, and Amanda Curley met with Leslie Allen (Ossining Library Foundation) and Dennis Neuberger (Friends of the Ossining Public Library) to share information about the building project and the bond.

Motion to enter Executive Session by Meghan Huppuch, seconded by Cecilia Quintero. Motion passed 5-0. Executive session entered at 7:17 PM.

Executive Session - Civil Service

Motion to leave Executive Session by Meghan Huppuch, seconded by Shandi Speller. Motion passed 5-0. Executive session ended at 7:24 PM.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Cecilia Quintero, seconded by Alice Joselow. Motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.