

SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
September 23, 2021  
The Honorable Karen B. Johnson Library

PRESENT: Cheryl Cufari, Randy Fine, Heather Gray, Sharon Jordan, Joe Landry William Levering, Steven McCutcheon, Julie McDonnell, Carmel Patrick, Shawn Schultz, Brenda Schworm, Angela Tatem, Tina Chericoni Versaci

Ex-Officio: Karen Bradley, Director; Beth DeMidio, Assistant Library Director for Operations; Devon Hedges, Assistant Library Director III, Charlene Roman, President, Friends of the Library;

ABSENT: Deborah Escobar

GUEST: Charlene Roman, Dr. Margaret King

CALL TO ORDER

- Dr. William Levering called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (public comment, communications, and so on)

- New Board member Angela Tatem took the Oath of Office which was presented by President Levering and notarized by Joe Landry.

AGENDA

- Adjustments – Bequests and Finance Committee items will be moved forward
- Approved unanimously

BEQUESTS COMMITTEE

- Motion to Approve Acceptance and Expenditure of the Whitney Denio Bequest
  - \$250,000 bequest from Ms. Denio. Longtime volunteer at the Glenville Branch
  - In multiple installments, \$125,000 is first in this run
  - Having County Facilities do as much as they can do, a cost savings.
  - Moved by: Joe Landry; Bequest and Finance Committees
  - Seconded by: Julie McDonnell
    - AYES: Unanimous
    - NAYES: None
    - ABSTENTIONS: None
- Motion to Approve Expenditure of the Ruth Shapiro Request
  - Much of the funds are going to Rotterdam for furniture, equipment, physical improvements

- This is the last location for getting some significant furnishings upgrades.
- Moved by: Joe Landry; Bequest and Finance Committees
- Seconded by:
  - AYES: Unanimous
  - NAYES:
  - ABSTENTIONS:

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Motion to Approve Expenditure for Improvements to the Scotia Branch
  - \$25,000 grant from the NYS Assembly
  - Moved by: Finance Committee
  - Seconded by: not needed
    - AYES: Unanimous
    - NAYES: None
    - ABSTENTIONS: None
- Motion to Approve Expenditures of the library as well as its own board
  - Moved by: Finance Committee
  - Seconded by:
    - AYES: Unanimous
    - NAYES: None
    - ABSTENTIONS: None

#### MINUTES OF THE PRIOR MEETING

- Adjustments
- A Motion to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting
  - Moved by: Sharon Jordan
  - Seconded by: Cheryl Cufari
    - Ayes: Unanimous
    - Nays: None
    - Abstentions: None

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Provided in verbal comments in support of the Director's Report

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. KBJ will be the ten day early voting site for the Schenectady County Board of Elections, beginning Saturday, October 23, 2021.
2. The MVLS Construction Grant Meeting was held on Monday, September 13, 2021. Attached is a summary of the awards that were approved by the committee. A big thanks to Devon Hedges for writing all of the grants and presenting them and to our County team, for their assistance.

3. Beth has been busy with interviews and onboarding of new staff. We will let you know when we are fully back up to speed with our days and hours of operation, after those new staff members are past their two-week training period.
4. Julie Dahlie, one of our Youth Services librarians, was the successful candidate for our reinstated Librarian III Adult Programming position. The process of replacing Julie, in the Youth Services Department has begun and canvassing letters have been sent out to those on our Civil Service list. She will need to work part of her week in the Youth Services Department and part in Adult Services until a replacement is found.
5. The Adult and Youth Services Summer reading program has concluded. The theme this year was *Tails and Tales*. We did have a concern raised by a parent about the content of a coloring book that was in her daughter's prize basket. The concern has been addressed, and a replacement coloring book has been provided. We will be moving to gift cards for the teens and tweens prize winners, next summer.
6. We are once collaborating with the Capital Region Antiracism Training Initiative on a book discussion of the life W.E.B. DuBois work, *The Soul of Black Folk*, which will be a virtual discussion led by Professor and world-renowned sociologist, Dr. Hayward Horton on Tuesday, October 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm. A link to the virtual program will appear in our Eventkeeper, prior to the event.
7. Our program series entitled "Dreams of Equality" held two book discussions this summer led by Miki Conn and on Tuesday, September 21 she is conducting a three-part writing program, in hybrid format, entitled "Resiliency: Write What You Know," on three consecutive Tuesday evenings.
8. We held two NYSCA Book Discussions this summer, one at KBJ and one at Bornt, that are funded via MVLS. I also participated at the NAACP Voter Registration table at the Caribbean Celebration held in Central Park on Saturday, September 11, 2021.
9. I did a presentation about the library at the Schenectady Rotary Meeting at the Turf Tavern on Thursday, September 16, 2021.
10. The mandate that all staff and visitors to our nine libraries wear masks, regardless of vaccination status, has been going well for the most part, at all locations. We did have two incidents at KBJ last week.
11. Thanks to all who participated in the virtual, facilitated, MVLS Planning for the Future, forum that concluded on September 15, 2021.
12. MVLS needs a Board of Trustees representative from Schenectady County. If you know of anyone who has daytime availability, as they meet on the morning of the third Thursday of the month at the MVLS Service Center, please let me know. One of the Schenectady County representatives has moved to Saratoga County and can no longer be a representative.
13. Our S.T.A.R.S. program received a \$5,000 donation from the Zonta Club. Our Co-Chair of our early literacy program, Kaela Wallman, wrote a proposal to Zonta which we presented at a program at their February 2020 meeting, just prior to lockdown. There is a fundraising event to

help support S.T.A.R.S. is being held on October 22, 2021, entitled The Witches Ball, at the Water's Edge Lighthouse. Costumes are welcome to be worn for those attending. Information is attached on this event if you would like to attend for participate in the online auction.

14. Mark your calendars for the Friends of the Library book sale that is slated for the weekend of October 2 and 3, 2021. Thanks to our Friends volunteers for continuing their efforts to support our library system!
15. Our Friends of the Library fall program series, Books Sandwiched In, began on Monday, September 13, 2021 with our very own President Levering organizing this month's programs. Doug has been a tremendous help in setting these programs up so they can use the hybrid model.
16. We continue to have the Sunday vaccine POD at KBJ on Sundays, from 2:00 – 4:00 pm and on Thursday afternoons at the Bornt Branch.

#### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

- The book sale will be held on Saturday, October 2 from 9 AM – 2 PM and Sunday, October 3 from 9 AM – 2 PM.

#### FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- Submitted written report; no actions requested.

#### PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Presented to County Legislature in August, not very long. Lots of good engagement, some pointed questions. Good for the newer legislators. A good project to do. Levering similarly applauds the efforts based on interactions with Legislators and others in attendance.

#### POLICY COMMITTEE

- No report

#### TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

- No report

#### BRANCH COMMITTEE

- Hybrid meeting on 8/19. Happy to be back. Great representation. The developments on Facilities and Furnishings issues are very positive. Branch closures associated with Facilities work isn't on a predictable schedule at the moment.

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- No report

## OLD BUSINESS

- None

## NEW BUSINESS

- Director Search
  - The Committee is developing a job description and looking at comparable titles and duties. Tina Versaci is the chair of the search process. The Committee is intended to include Trustees from the Personnel Committee and representatives from the Office of the County Manager and the County Legislature.
- Meeting Dates
  - President Levering will be sharing a survey concerning adjustment of the meeting date and time.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM