

SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
September 24, 2020

PRESENT: Portia Alston, Jennifer Barnes, Cheryl Cufari, Randy Fine, Heather Gray, Sharon Jordan, M. Joe Landry, William Levering, Steven McCutcheon, Julie McDonnell, Carmel Patrick, Tina Chericoni Versaci

Ex-Officio: Karen Bradley, Director; Devon Hedges, Assistant Library Director III, Peggy King, Schenectady County Legislature, Chair, Education and Libraries; Christine Witkowski, Friends of the Library; Janice P. Martin, Board Clerk

ABSENT: Deborah Escobar

GUEST: Lynn Vincent

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

No one spoke during privilege of the floor.

AGENDA

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 27 MEETING

The minutes of the August 27, 2020 passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Library administration met with the County Manager and Deputy County Manager about a phased reopening beginning October 5, 2020. They presented five libraries that are authorized to open four hours on their regularly scheduled days of curbside: Niskayuna, Glenville, Rotterdam, Bornt and Mont Pleasant. Devon Hedges is working with the County Facilities team to prepare the sites for public access. A draft revised reopening plan will be presented during the Policy Committee report.
- The October hours of operation for the five branches is included in trustee packets. We will revisit in mid-October for the November and December hours of operation.
- The Mont Pleasant Branch Library repairs to the exterior vandalism are underway as is the parking lot and entrance to Sixth Avenue that needs to be corrected.
- There have been a number of facilities issues at the KBJ library due to water and sewage pipes. Repairs have been made and we are waiting for the elevator to be repaired; the part just came in.
- The grand opening of the new Stewarts Shop on State Street will be moved back to a later date in October, due to a delay in construction. Max Spritzer from Stewarts will keep us updated, as the Woodlawn Branch Library will be the recipient of a \$1,000 donation from them.
- Our virtual author event with Eddie Glaude, author of *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own*, is on October 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
- Curbside is going well, and has slowed down a bit in some locations.
- A Kindness Rocks initiative will take place for families, in October and November, through our Youth Services program.
- The County Manager notified Karen Bradley that the second floor of the KBJ Library will be utilized by the County Public Health Services as a staging area.
- Early voting begins at the KBJ Library on Saturday, October 24, 2020.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

- The Friends have held three successful, socially distanced, Sunday sidewalk book sales. There is one more scheduled this year on October 18.
- Book donations have resumed on a limited basis. Initially donations were to be accepted from Friends members and library staff only, but the word has spread.
- Volunteers are needed – not only for the upcoming book sale, but also for helping to handle the influx of book donations.
- The Whitney Book Corner and A Second Look have been open for a few months with limited hours. Sales are going well and we hope to offer more hours once volunteers start to feel comfortable returning to work.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Resolution 1 – Approval of SCPL Board of Trustees Expenditures. Tina Chericoni Versaci made a motion to approve; seconded by Sharon Jordan and passed unanimously.

POLICY COMMITTEE

- Resolution 2 – Revised Reopening Plan and Hours of Operation.
- Karen Bradley, Beth DeMidio and Devon Hedges met with Rory Fluman and Jackie Falotico to discuss public service and curbside service for our libraries. The County Manager determined that five branches would be open for public service hours: Bornt, Glenville, Mont Pleasant, Niskayuna and Rotterdam. Don Scheuer from Office of Facilities came up the maximum capacity number for each branch, based only on public service space. Limited access, which includes no lingering, computer access by appointment only and no hands on help from staff members, will begin on October 5.
- Discussion ensued regarding the Karen B. Johnson Library's continued closure. Karen Bradley reported that Board of Elections reserved the KBJ for early voting October 24-November 1, 2020; Public Health is staging vaccine storage on the second floor; the Grand Jury has used the McChesney Room and tutor rooms on second floor and may need use again. The Undersheriff is looking to hire new special patrol officers because many of their staff are retired law enforcement officers, working too many hours. The County is in a state of emergency, and they have complete authority regarding public health. Karen Bradley will be meeting with the county again on October 19, 2020.
- After much discussion, the Policy Committee made a motion to approve Resolution 2 – Revised Reopening Plan and Hours of Operation. The vote resulted in three *abstentions*, one *no vote* and eight *yes votes*. Resolution 2 passed.

The County will send out a press release about the reopening plan.

Branches will need additional staffing for entrance monitoring, temperature checks, etc.

Woodlawn Branch Library will be closing for renovations; all other libraries will be open for curbside.

NEW BUSINESS

- Dr. Levering noted that the bylaws currently do not mention classes of tenure for trustees, which he interprets to mean that a trustee's tenure does not expire until that person resigns. He suggested that the policy committee address this.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m. on a motion by Sharon Jordan, seconded by Cheryl Cufari and approved unanimously.