

SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The regular monthly meeting of the Schenectady County Public Library Trustees was held on Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Swanker Boardroom at the Karen B. Johnson Central Library.

PRESENT: Madelyn Thorne, President; Brenda Schworm, Vice President; Carmel Patrick, Treasurer; Angela Tatem, Secretary; Justin Chaires; Steve McCutcheon; Jude McQueen; Tina Chericoni Versaci

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: David Fronk; Sharon Jordan; Julie McDonnell; Bernice Rivera

STAFF: Beth DeMidio, Director of Operations; Devon Hedges, Assistant Library Director; Jan Martin, Board Clerk

GUESTS: Charlene Roman, President, Friends of the Library; Shirley DeBono, First Vice-President, Friends of the Library

President Madelyn Thorne called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Deborah Noyes-Parkwood Boulevard, Schenectady, New York – Provided information on per capita spending among eight libraries, including SCPL. Voiced concerns about withdrawal from JA and on staffing and programming.

Nancy Gifford – Scotia, New York – Spoke about withdrawal from JA, staffing and programming.

Wade Abbott – Rotterdam, New York/Staff member of MVLS – Gave feedback on events that took place at the MVLS Spring Symposium held in May. Addressed the withdrawal of SCPL from JA and potential issues with MVLS.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Justin Chaires, seconded by Carmel Patrick. Motion passed.

Resolution 2 – Acceptance and Expenditure of Ryan Bequest

Moved by Carmel Patrick, seconded by Justin Chaires. Motion passed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Madelyn Thorne participated in an ad hoc meeting today discussing the withdrawal from JA.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Trustees reviewed the written report by Executive Director, Charity Thorne. Beth DeMidio highlighted the following:

- All librarian vacancies have been filled. Once completely onboarded, there will be adult and youth services librarians at all branches. Programming will continue to grow. The huge pool of applicants has also resulted in the hiring of part-time Library Assistants.
- Summer Reading for Adult and Youth Services kicked off on June 15, 2024.
- The interior painting at the Rotterdam Branch Library was completed earlier than expected. Photos were shared.
- Designs were displayed for sound attenuation for the Glenville, Niskayuna and Scotia Branch Libraries.

Discussion ensued.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

- The Friends of the library have a new program within the Outreach Committee and they gave out eight scholarships to high school seniors in Schenectady County.
- The volunteer picnic was held on June 7, 2024 at the Central Park Pavilion.
- The fall book sale will be held on October 5 and 6, 2024.
- Harry Potter Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 19, 2024.
- The Friends funded Museum Pass Program has been reinstated.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Building – None
- Finance – None
- Planning – None
- Policy – None
- MVLS Representative – None

NEW BUSINESS

Angela Tatem reported that Albany Public Library shut their doors for a day in order to have a staff retreat. She asked if that was something SCPL would consider doing.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Swanker Boardroom at the Karen B. Johnson Central Library.