

SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
November 10, 2022

PRESENT: Cheryl Cufari, David Fronk, Sharon Jordan Steve McCutcheon, Julie McDonnell, Haileab Samuel, Brenda Schworm, Angela Tatem, Tina Chericoni Versaci, Christine Witkowski

ZOOM: Jude McQueen, Bernice Rivera

ABSENT: Randy Fine, Carmel Patrick

Ex-Officio: Charity Thorne, Executive Director of Library System, Devon Hedges, Assistant Library Director; Beth DeMidio, Assistant Library Director of Operations; Sara Mae Pratt, Schenectady County Legislature, Chair, Education and Libraries; Michelle Ostrelch, Schenectady County Legislature, Co-Chair, Education and Libraries; Charlene Roman, President, Friends of the Library; Janice P. Martin, Board Clerk

Vice President Tina Chericoni Versaci called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – None.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

- The minutes of the September 22, 2022 Library Board of Trustees meeting were approved as submitted on a motion by Sharon Jordan, seconded by Haileab Samuel.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

- Vice President, Tina Chericoni Versaci reported that President Deborah Escobar submitted her resignation effective October 24, 2022. Julie McDonnell moved, Steve McCutcheon seconded to accept her resignation, with regret. Motion passed. The board thanked her for her leadership during her Presidency and also for her time on the MVLS board.
- Two officer positions need to be filled, President and Treasurer. Steve McCutcheon will step down from the treasurer position as he is now Schenectady County Deputy Auditor. Carmel Patrick will be re-convening the Nominating Committee. If anyone is interested in either position, please contact Carmel Patrick.
- The Board of Trustees Committee list is included in tonight’s packet. Some of the committees may be combined and volunteers are still needed. Contact Tina Chericoni Versaci for more information or to sign up for one of the committees. Also included is the Board of Trustee Terms. The Schenectady County Legislature will need to appoint someone to the vacancy left by Deborah Escobar.
- Tina Chericoni Versaci introduced Charity Thorne, Executive Director of the Library System. Introductions were made.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- Charity Thorne extended a sincere thank you to Beth DeMidio and Devon Hedges for their support over the last several weeks in addition to their work as interim co-directors for many months.
- She is planning on meeting one-on-one with all staff and has already had appointments with staff at four of the branches. Everyone has been welcoming.
- The library has had many projects happening over the years, with the Rotterdam Branch Library renovation completed as of November 9, 2022. Beth DeMidio presented a slideshow of the

renovation at the Rotterdam Branch Library which highlighted the new circulation desk, children's area, teen space, adult and public computer area, program room and staff room. Devon Hedges reported that there were technology upgrades as well to LED lighting and security cameras. Funds for the renovations came from the Board of Trustees Account from the Ruth Shapiro Bequest. The branch re-opened on November 9 if anyone would like to visit.

2023 Budget – Beth DeMidio had a follow-up with the County on the 2023 budget. Highlights include:

- Addition of (1) Full-time Library Clerk
- Addition of (1) Full-time Senior Library Clerk
- Hourly budget will increase
- Materials budget will increase
- Office and Equipment request was granted
- Maintenance Agreements line was increased. Funding will come from Facilities for carpet/window cleaning

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

- Charlene Roman reported that Sylvia Curley received the Harold and Junice Wusterbarth Award at the MVLS annual dinner on October 27, 2022. Sylvia has been a lifelong volunteer with the Friends of the Library.
- The Whitney Book Store will be participating in the Illuminocity Lighting Experience. This is the second year that the City of Schenectady and Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation has sponsored the event.
- The Second Look Bookstore has added additional hours this fall. They will now be open on Tuesdays and Sundays.
- The Winter Book Sale will be held on February 4 and 5, 2023.

BRANCH COMMITTEE – No report.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

- Sharon Jordan will have a written report at the December 1, 2022 meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Tina Chericoni Versaci asked for a motion to approve Resolution 1 – Approval of SCPL Board of Trustees Expenditures. Julie McDonnell moved, Sharon Jordan seconded. Motion passed.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

- The SCPL Long-Range Plan of Service 2020-2023: 2020-2022 Summary/Evaluation of Goal Accomplishments was presented. Cheryl Cufari is very proud of the accomplishments made and thanked the staff, board and administration. Adult and Youth Services Programming flourished, several grants were approved, renovation was completed on several branches. All work at the branches has been tracked through the Long-Range Plan.
- Cheryl Cufari is looking to hold focus groups at branches with the library's new director Charity Thorne and members of the board for input on the next long-range plan.

Tina Chericoni Versaci asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2 – Approval of SCPL Long Range Plan of Service 2020-2023. Christine Witkowski moved, David Fronk seconded. Motion passed.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – No report.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Quaker Street Branch Library will be closed November 28-December 10, 2022 for HVAC replacement.
- The Scotia Branch Library will be closed December 15 and 16, 2022 to complete EV stations.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Swanker Boardroom.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. on a motion by Julie McDonnell, seconded by Sharon Jordan.

DRAFT