

SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The regular monthly meeting of the Schenectady County Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, April 3, 2025 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; David Fronk; Steve McCutcheon; Jude McQueen; Bernice Rivera; Tina Chericoni Versaci
ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Justin Chaires; Julie McDonnell; Angela Tatem

STAFF: Charity Thorne, Executive Director; Devon Hedges, Assistant Director; Janice Martin, Board Clerk

GUESTS: Michelle Ostrelch, Schenectady County Legislature, Vice-Chair Education & Libraries; Charlene Roman, President, Friends of SCPL; Shirley DeBono, First Vice-President, Friends of SCPL, Diane Wilkinson, President-Elect, Friends of the SCPL

Madelyn Thorne called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Katarina Curtis/Niskayuna – She voiced her concerns about Schenectady County Public Library’s withdrawal from JA.

Richard Warner/Schenectady – He is concerned about the initial and continuing controversy surrounding the withdrawal of JA.

Lynn Vincent/Library Staff Member – She shared several stories from patrons who have come in over the past several months. She said patrons are thrilled with the change, they love the new APP, the EZ Scan services, and access to WorldCat.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Brenda Schworm, seconded by Tina Chericoni Versaci. Motion passed.

APPROVAL TO EXPEND PARTIAL SCOTIA BEQUEST FUNDS FOR LANDSCAPING

Moved by Tina Chericoni Versaci, seconded by Carmel Patrick. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF 2.3 AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CODE OF ETHICS

Moved by Bernice Rivera, seconded by David Fronk. Motion passed.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

- Reminder to trustees to complete the 2-hour trustee education for 2025. An upcoming 1-hour webinar training through MVLS will be held on April 8, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.
- The Friends of the Library dinner will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025.
- Discussion ensued regarding cuts to IMLS and support and a statement from the board to our local and state representatives.
- Madelyn Thorne, Haileab Samuel and Charity Thorne meet regularly with Eric Trahan, Director of MVLS. We are full members in MVLS and will continue to participate in the meetings to advocate for full MVLS system services to SCPL.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Trustees reviewed the written report by Executive Director Charity Thorne.

- The board packet includes a glowing letter from Mont Pleasant Neighborhood Association complimenting Mont Pleasant staff member Christine Symes.
- KBJ just debuted a Seed Library in memory of Momma Lou, a relative of a staff member who left funds for initiatives of this nature.
- Ingram, our primary book vendor, has been overwhelmed with orders as customers are leaving one of the other big vendors, B&T, which is leading to a delay for us in receiving materials from Ingram. We are looking for alternate ways to get newer items quicker.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

- Charlene Roman announced that this is her last board meeting as President of the Friends of the Library. She introduced President-Elect Diane Wilkinson.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – No report.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. in the Swanker Boardroom.

POLICY COMMITTEE

- The committee met on March 5, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

- Discussion ensued regarding MVLS and SCPL Overdrive and whether MVLS equitably provides system services to SCPL.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. on a motion by David Fronk, seconded by Carmel Patrick.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Swanker Boardroom at the Karen B. Johnson Library.