

## SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The regular monthly meeting of the Schenectady County Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, April 24, 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

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Justin Chaires; Julie McDonnell; Angela Tatem; Tina Chericoni Versaci

STAFF: Charity Thorne, Executive Director; Devon Hedges, Assistant Director; Beth DeMidio, Director of Operations; Janice Martin, Board Clerk

GUESTS: Michelle Ostrelch, Schenectady County Legislature, Vice-Chair Education & Libraries; Diane Wilkinson, President, Friends of SCPL; Jessica McDonald, Vice-President, Friends of SCPL, Shirley DeBono, Treasurer, Friends of SCPL

Madelyn Thorne called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Katie Beth/Girl Scout – She spoke on behalf of the environment and urged the library to make sure all lights are turned off overnight at the Hon Karen B Johnson Library.

Katarina Curtis/Niskayuna – She urged for the strategic planning proposal being considered by the Library Board of Trustees to be transparent, independent, and comprehensive both in how they choose a company and how they go about gathering their information.

Nancy Gifford/Scotia – She is concerned about the cuts in IMLS funding and urged the Library to take a firm stance on DEI and IMLS funding

### CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Board of Trustees Policy Committee Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2025. Moved by Bernice Rivera, seconded by Steven McCutcheon. Motion passed.
- b. Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes for April 3, 2025. Moved by Steven McCutcheon, seconded by Brenda Schworm. Motion passed.
- c. Board of Trustees Planning Committee Meeting Minutes for April 8, 2025. Moved by Carmel Patrick, seconded by Bernice Rivera. Motion passed.
- d. Board of Trustees Finance Committee Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2025. Moved by Carmel Patrick, seconded by Steven McCutcheon. Motion passed.
- e. Board of Trustees Planning Committee Meeting Minutes for April 16, 2025. Moved by Brenda Schworm, seconded by Carmel Patrick. Motion passed.
- f. Acceptance of Hickmott Bequest – Resolution 1. Moved by Steven McCutcheon, seconded by Bernice Rivera. Motion passed.

### APPROVAL OF POLICY 1.1 BYLAWS

- Moved by David Fronk, seconded by Carmel Patrick. Motion passed.

### APPROVAL OF POLICY 1.3 PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY

- After discussion, trustees were asked if they wanted to table the Public Comment Policy until next month. A motion was made by Carmel Patrick, seconded by Bernice Rivera. Motion passed.

#### APPROVAL OF POLICY 5.6 MEETING ROOM POLICIES

- A motion was made by David Fronk, seconded by Bernice Rivera. Motion passed.

#### SELECTION OF STRATEGIC PLANNING CONSULTANT

- Carmel Patrick thanked the Strategic Planning Committee, Bernice, Rivera, Brenda Schworm, and Angela Tatem, along with Charity Thorne and Madelyn Thorne. Committee members gave an overview of their process and presented their recommendation. Discussion ensued. Carmel Patrick made a motion to contract with Library Strategies, seconded by Brenda Schworm. Motion passed.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Madelyn Thorne, Haileab Samuel and Charity Thorne have been meeting regularly with MVLS to discuss how MVLS and SCPL can continue to work together. Many of the decisions that need to be made must go through JA and unfortunately, they have not met in several months, so things are at a standstill.
- Madelyn Thorne is also on the MVLS Governance Committee as they are updating their by-laws and policies.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Trustees reviewed the written report by Executive Director Charity Thorne.

More recent updates include:

- The library just started circulating "Wi-Fi hot spots," generously funded by the Friends of the Library. There are twelve available for checkout.
- We participated in the County tree saplings give-away. This is the second year of this initiative.

Facilities updates given by Beth DeMidio:

- All nine branches are undergoing a project to fob staff entrances. The Hon Karen B. Johnson Library will also have fob entrance to the second floor at stair and elevator access.
- It was discovered that the leaks in the McChesney Room are due to cracked pipes that are encased in concrete in the ceiling. Repair work will be done once a contractor is found.

#### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

- Diane Wilkinson introduced herself as the new President of the Friends of the Library. She also introduced Jessica McDonald as Vice President and Shirley DeBono as Treasurer.
- The spring book sale will be held on Saturday, May 3 from 10 am-4 pm and Sunday, 12 pm-3 pm. Volunteers are needed. For the last ½ hour of the book sale on Sunday, educators or non-profits can get free books; just need an ID.
- Diane encouraged meeting attendees to join the Friends of the Library.
- The Second Look Bookstore was featured on Channel 10 news.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Budget request review at the next meeting on May 20, 2025.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

- No report.

POLICY COMMITTEE

- Next meeting is on May 14, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

- None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. on a motion by David Fronk, seconded by Carmel Patrick.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Swanker boardroom at the Karen B. Johnson Library.