

## SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The regular monthly meeting of the Schenectady County Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, January 23, 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; Justin Chaires; David Fronk; Jude McQueen; Tina Chericoni Versaci

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Steve McCutcheon; Julie McDonnell; Bernice Rivera; Angela Tatem

STAFF: Charity Thorne, Executive Director; Beth DeMidio, Director of Operations; Michelle Dannenhoffer-Cau, Public Services Manager

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 6:07p.m.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Patricia Gosda/Niskayuna, NY-SCPL's most avid readers and users of the library have had to adjust their ways to access library materials for the last several months. This includes having to acquire cards from other libraries. She is concerned about the relevance of SCPL in the future.

David Gosda/Niskayuna, NY- He urges the board to work with the County IT Department to have Library Board of Trustees meetings livestreamed. He also recommended that the email addresses of the Library Board of Trustees be made public.

Mike Norris/Quaker Street, NY-He has been working with staff member, Michelle, to help him acquire books/e-books, but wanted to express that previously reserving books was seamless.

Nancy Gifford-Scotia, NY-Remarked on the statistics included in the board packet and discussed the importance of professional and experienced librarians for collection development.

Deborah Noyes-Schenectady, NY-She highly recommends The Library Book, by Susan Orlean. It was the book club choice for Niskayuna. Trustees would enjoy reading the book and it reinforces how important the trustees' job is to make policy for this organization.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Justin Chaires, seconded by Tina Chericoni Versaci. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF LONG-RANGE PLAN – Discussion ensued. Moved by Carmel Patrick, seconded by Jude McQueen. Motion passed.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Draft of 2025 Committee Assignments have been sent out
- Reminder about required 2 hours of training for trustees for 2025. See MVLS website for online training options
- Library Advocacy Day in Albany – February 5, 2025
- Discussion ensued about regular meeting time 6:00 or 6:30
- By-Laws need revision

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Trustees reviewed the written report by Executive Director Charity Thorne. Charity Thorne recognized library staff who worked extremely hard to provide excellent customer service through all the changes and challenges over the past several months as we were transitioning to be more flexible, have autonomy and work to improve our services. She acknowledges that it has been difficult, and staff were outstanding. Lynn Vincent who supervises central circulation held evening and weekend public programs to teach patrons how to use the new catalog and place requests. The programs were well attended, and patrons were very appreciative.

#### CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Beth DeMidio reported.

- The garage at the Central Library was demolished. Replacement will be a pre-fab garage-to arrive in 2025
- Work on the cooling tower was completed earlier this year/new fencing as well.
- Staff breakroom and restrooms should be completed in February
- Elevator at KBJ-replacement date TBA
- Meeting was held recently with C2 regarding master plan for KBJ
- Need feasibility study for Quaker Street and Woodlawn libraries/Both are in the 2025 Capital Projects

#### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

- The winter book sale will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2025 from 10:00 am-4:00 pm and Sunday, February 2, 2025 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance – None
- Planning – None
- Policy – None

#### NEW BUSINESS

Jude McQueen commented that she loves the new Website.

David Fronk corrected a statement that was made about SCPL.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm on a motion by Carmel Patrick, seconded by Justin Chaires.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the Swanker Boardroom at the Karen B. Johnson Library.