

SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The regular monthly meeting of the Schenectady County Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Swanker Boardroom at the Karen B. Johnson Central Library.

PRESENT: Brenda Schworm, Vice-President; Carmel Patrick, Treasurer; Justin Chaires; David Fronk; Steve McCutcheon; Julie McDonnell; Jude McQueen; Tina Chericoni Versaci

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Madelyn Thorne; Bernice Rivera; Angela Tatem

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; Charlene Roman, President, Friends of SCPL; Shirley DeBono, First Vice-President, Friends of SCPL

Vice President, Brenda Schworm called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike-Patron from Rotterdam and Quaker Street Branch Libraries. He is unhappy about the current procedure to request materials but mentioned that staff at both libraries do a great job in assisting him.

Patricia Gosda-Niskayuna. She shared her story about reserving a book through WorldCat in November 2024 and not receiving it until February 2025. She urged trustees to try WorldCat for themselves.

Nancy Gifford-Scotia. She expressed her perception there is a lack of transparency about recent changes that have been made at the library.

Nancy Benz-Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers Rensselaer County. She promoted Literacy Volunteers and brought materials to distribute. Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County provides free, confidential tutoring to adults (16 and up) and out-of-school teens in reading, writing, math, and conversational English.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

SCHENECTADY POET LAUREATE

Carl Williams, Schenectady City Councilman spoke about Schenectady's Poet Laureate. He asked if the Board of Trustees would appoint a member to serve on the nominating committee.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Committee assignments for 2025 have been sent out. Trustees should contact Madelyn Thorne if they have any questions.

Policy Committee will update Policy/Bylaws; Planning Committee will develop a new Strategic/Long-Range Plan.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Trustees reviewed the written report by Executive Director Charity Thorne.

The library has launched a new app and a video tour was given of the new app. Highlights include:

- My Account
- Find a Library
- eBooks & Audio
- Events Calendar
- Other Services
- Social
- Scan ISBN Barcode (scan the barcode on the back of any book to see if the library has a copy)

We now have a librarian primarily focused on services to teens at KBJ, Diana Hurlburt. Promotions have started. Teen Corner posters are included in trustee packets.

We are working on re-introducing Homebound Services and Books by Mail for patrons who cannot physically come to the library.

A video from the scpl.org website on how to place an Interlibrary Loan Request through WorldCat was played for trustees. Average turnaround time to receive materials we borrow from other libraries through OCLC is 7.5 days from patron request.

The library has a membership in Library Speakers Consortium thanks to the Friends of the Library. The author talk videos and live author talks will be available to patrons. This feature will be included on our Library Calendar of Events Page.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Great Decisions Program runs from March 4-April 22, 2025 at the Karen B. Johnson Library. The winter book sale netted over \$7,000.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – No report.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Carmel Patrick reported that the trustees will be hiring a consultant to help with the Strategic /Long Range planning process.

POLICY COMMITTEE – Upcoming meeting TBA.

NEW BUSINESS

Carmel Patrick acknowledged that the Phyllis Bornt Branch Library has been open for nine years today. Grand Opening was February 27, 2016.

Julie McDonnell voiced her ideas on how to ensure quorums at board committee meetings. Discussion ensued.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. on a motion by Justin Chaires, seconded by Julie McDonnell.

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