

**Skaneateles Library Association
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes
(Special “Zoom” Meeting)
September 8, 2020**

Supporting Our Mission:

To inspire learning, enrich lives, and connect our community

Realizing Our Vision:

**To be the cultural and informational hub of a vibrant, thriving community
by creating spaces and experiences that are welcoming, enriching and sustainable.**

Present: President Dave Hempson, Vice President Susanne Guske, Treasurer Andrew Hagen, Secretary Danette Davis **Trustees:** Manny Arroyo, Karen Morrissey Bedard, Ralph DeMasi, Scott Elia, Amanda Latreille, Dave Lee, Bob Lotkowitz, Tara Lynn, Maura Molnar, Larry Palmieri, Amy Rolleri, Laurie Spencer, Katrina Zepp **Staff:** Library Director Nickie Marquis, Deanna King, Librarian.

Absent: Patti Carey

Members of the Public in attendance: Jean Cooper, Diane Fellerman, Fran McCormack, Sharon O’Connell, Carol Young, John Young,

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by President Hempson.
This meeting was held online via Zoom due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments at this time.

Approval of the Minutes:

The August 11, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes were approved.

President’s Report:

New Library – next steps: President Hempson gave a recap that after deciding to keep ownership of the existing library building, the board voted in December 2019 to pursue building a new library. The board is planning to vote on the site location at the October meeting.

Committees have been convened: The Site Committee, after looking at over 20 potential sites, has narrowed the list to two sites. The 49 E. Genesee Street Committee is studying how to repurpose the existing building for community benefit. They are gathering information and quotes to repair the front steps, install an elevator and improve accessibility as well as other building issues. The Fundraising Committee has begun to meet with community enablers.

Library Director's Report:

Open by Appointment: Director Marquis emailed the report to board members on Friday. She reported that the library is now open by appointment for patrons to visit for up to 45 minutes. Staff perform cleaning between appointments. The limit is five patrons at one time; usually there are three or four per time slot and masks and hand sanitizer use are required. Curbside pick-up remains busy.

Virtual Programs: Programs will most likely remain online through the end of the year.

Treasurer's Report:

Operating Report and Financials: These reports were sent previously to board members along with the proposed 2020-2021 budget. Treasurer Hagen stated that the financials are where we would expect them to be at this point in the year. Vice President Guske stated that our investments have recovered from everything that has happened during this tumultuous year, including our withdrawals.

2020-2021 Budget Vote: President Hempson made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 budget. Trustee Elia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

49 E. Genesee Street Committee:

Vice President Guske reported that the committee has been meeting monthly and is working on a Master Plan for the existing library building.

Front Steps: Plans for new front steps have been submitted and the committee will be meeting with the Village Historical Preservation Committee on September 28 to get approval for the steps and ramp.

Elevator: The committee is getting quotes for an internal elevator as well as for a lift. Quotes will include the units and construction/installation costs. The American Legion has a lift similar to the one we are looking at (except that ours would be glass-enclosed).

Site Committee: Trustee Elia reported that the committee, after identifying and evaluating over 20 sites including the existing library building, the choice has been narrowed to two final locations. Evaluation criteria included a site large enough for a library building as well as parking, convenience for walking and safety, adjacent nature/outdoor space. The committee has continued to study feasibility and to communicate with the owners of the sites. President Hempson and Vice President Guske thanked the committee for their work.

Fund Raising Committee: President Hempson reported that the committee is looking at a campaign in the range of 10 million dollars. Board members would do the fundraising outreach but we would need professional administrative and coordination help to keep the project moving forward.

Vice President Guske reported that the committee has been meeting with three groups of community members who have had experience with fundraising. Feedback has been that 10 million is an accurate estimate and this amount would be feasible for fundraising in our community. The groups approved of the potential sites, the evaluation criteria that has been used, and preliminary design ideas. She explained features that should be included in the design because of what we have learned from the pandemic: state-of-the-art HVAC and

ventilation, a drive-through option, spaces that can be repurposed in different ways as needs change.

President Hempson agreed that flexibility in a new building is critical to meet future needs that we cannot foresee. An educator told President Hempson that remote learning will remain important in the future. Space will be needed for patrons who are working or studying remotely.

Trustee DeMasi asked about visuals to help the board and the public understand potential design of a library. President Hempson replied that once a site has been decided on, preliminary sketches would be commissioned.

Trustee Elia reiterated that hiring professional fundraising organization assistance would be worthwhile in conducting a campaign.

Barrow Gallery Update: President Hempson reported that five board trustees are on the Barrow Management Committee which has been meeting monthly. As part of the Long Range Planning, six to seven goals have been identified to build the foundation of the Gallery for several decades. Objectives are being developed for the comprehensive plan. Having a gallery director with professional experience has been a huge help in the long range planning process.

Public Comment:

Fran McCormack thanked the board and especially Trustee Elia and the Site Committee for their hard work. She had hoped to hear the location of the two final potential sites. President Hempson replied that we had to postpone that announcement as we continue to work with the other parties.

Carol Young stated her opinion that the public wants more transparency. This is the first time she had heard that the fundraising amount would be in the range of 10 million dollars. She feels the cost would be more than this. She asked about plans for the existing building. President Hempson explained that the Barrow Gallery wants to expand its space. The Chamber of Commerce and the Creamery are two organizations interested in space. The library could hold an ongoing used book sale, and space could be used for remote learning/working by the community.

Ms. Young expressed her concern that nonprofit organizations sometimes change the interior of historic buildings. She does not see making money from the potential tenants.

President Hempson thanked the public for their comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19PM

Next Meeting: Tuesday October 13, 2020 at 6:30 PM EST – online via Zoom

Submitted by Danette Davis, Secretary