



Skaneateles Library Association  
Board of Directors  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, August 8, 2023

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 Susanne Guske, Vice President Dave Hempson, Secretary Meghann Sandak, Treasurer Maura Molnar. **Trustees:** Katie Armijo, Karen Bedard, Kathryn Carlson, Ralph DeMasi, Andrew Hagen, Kristin LaBeau, Bob Lotkowitz, Paige Lynch, Erin McCormack, Larry Palmieri, Amy Rolleri. **Staff:** Library Director Nickie Marquis, Assistant Director and Adult Services Librarian Andrea Snyder.

**Absent:** Manny Arroyo, Steve McClintic, Stephen Thomas.

**Members of the Public:** Diane Fellerman.

**Call to order:** 6:30 p.m. by President Guske.

**Public Comment Period:** None.

**Approval of the Minutes**

President Guske called for comments on the July regular meeting minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

**President's Report**

The design committee is enthusiastic about the updated designs, which will be shared later on in the meeting. We will be discussing how to interface with the public about the project. Senator Schumer's office would like a meeting to talk about the project. Ed Kochian will be helping us on behalf of the County.

**Library Director's Report**

The Parent University Sessions, which have been renamed as the Science of Reading: Community Workshops, have been scheduled for six Saturdays beginning in September from 1-3 p.m. Mary Beth and Nickie met with the superintendent and two reading specialists from the school to share what they are working on. The school will be represented during the programs. These sessions will be hybrid so that people can participate remotely.

Nickie submitted the final report for the first construction grant from 2020 (lighting, chimney restoration and front steps). We should receive the final 10% payment soon.

Andrea is planning a program on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in partnership with the Creamery about U.S. presidents and their connections to New York State.

We also received a \$500 grant for the guitar series from SKARTS.

### **Financials**

We are ten months through the year, and received a boost in revenue (\$31,000) from the book sale. Expenses are on target. We will be over budget on professional services due to legal fees associated with the separation of the Library and Barrow boards. Regardless, we will have enough money to finish out the year. Investments also went up again last month. Maura reminded the Board that next month we will discuss the proposed budget that would begin on October 1.

### **J.D. Barrow Art Gallery**

Amy reported that last Wednesday was the fundraiser on the Judge Ben Wiles, which sold out. Additionally, we were able to sell some merchandise at the Boat Show and Curbstone festivals to add to our revenue.

Susanne added that there was a meeting on July 24<sup>th</sup> to further plans to separate the two boards.

### **Fundraising**

Mary Kerwick and Jill Girzadas have been doing a great job taking over fundraising activities. Meetings with prospective donors have been scheduled and we have a few exciting opportunities coming up this month.

Kathryn has put together a pledge for a study room in memory of her daughter. So far \$5800 has been pledged toward that room by family and friends.

### **Fennell Street New Building Committee**

Jill Marshall will be hosting an event tomorrow night.

Dave shared that we have received seven proposals from construction managers. Estimates for the first phase range from \$35k-\$100k depending on who we select. We will narrow the candidates down to three, and each finalist will give in-person presentations in Library Hall. The board will be welcome to attend. Our zoning committee will meet with the zoning board in September now that we have some more substantial design concepts in place.

We continue to be extremely pleased with Oudens Ello as the design firm. They continue to be highly responsive.

Dave presented updated interior and exterior plans for the building. The exterior will now include a place to drop off at a covered entryway and the turn around has been moved to the end of the parking lot to save room. We have created a terrace area on Fennell Street. There will be a large conference room that could spill out onto the terrace and there will also be access from another conference room and/or the café. The large meeting room will be able to seat 100 people and has an attached kitchen. The lobby will feature shelving on wheels so that everything is very flexible. There will be plenty of seating in that area as well.

### **Communications Committee**

We sent out a press release announcing Mary Morrissey Kerwick as the Capital Campaign Director and it is now on social media and will be published in the Eagle Press.

We are working on scheduling another internal communications workshop to get everyone aligned on messaging.

**Public Comment:** Diane expressed her enthusiasm for the updated plans and her gratitude for Mary Kerwick's work.

#### **Executive Session**

Dave made a motion at 7:14 p.m. to move into Executive Session to discuss the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property. The motion was seconded by Larry. All trustees voted in favor. No action was taken during Executive Session.

At 8:59 p.m., Meghann made the motion to end Executive Session and Kathryn seconded her motion.

Dave made the motion to end the regular meeting and Kathryn seconded his motion.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. (In Person – Library Hall)**

**Submitted by Meghann Sandak, Secretary**