



**Board of Directors
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 13, 2024**

Present: President Dave Hempson, Secretary Kathryn Carlson

Trustees: Katie Armijo, Karen Bedard, Bob Lotkowitz, Stephen McClintic, Larry Palmieri, Amy Rolleri, Meghann Sandak

Staff: Library Director Nickie Marquis, Assistant Director and Adult Services Librarian Andrea Snyder

Absent: Vice President Erin McCormack, Treasurer Maura Molnar, Manny Arroyo, Kristin LaBeau, Ralph DeMasi, Susanne Guske, Stephen Thomas

Members of the Public: none

Call to order – 6:30 PM

Public Comment Period – no comments

Approval of the Minutes – Minutes were approved from the Library Board meeting held on July 9, 2024

President's Report

President Hempson reported that the fundraiser event at the Youles went very well. He wanted the board members to know that he told those present that the board and its committee members were wonderful, hard-working, dedicated individuals.

Library Director's Report

Director Marquis referred to her Monthly Report sent previously with the board packet. She added that the tree work that was being done on the east side of the building and shared with the neighboring shop would begin tomorrow at 6:45 am.

Program review – Director Marquis indicated that the summer was very busy with many programs, especially for children. Children's Librarian Schwartzwalder was committed to activities and participation rather than just pages read. Children had been to Austin Park as well as the Library's yard to be outside. The library also had partnered with Finger Lakes Land Trust, The Syracuse Orchestra, Cornell Cooperative Services, ESF, and the Skaneateles Lake Association for programs. Participants had been involved in activities such as birding, Yoga, dancing and gardening.

Trustee Lotkowitz requested a program for toddler signing and was told it was already in the works for September.

Trustee Rolleri asked if it would be possible to have a Little Free Library at the post office in Skaneateles Falls. She volunteered to maintain it. She noted that she maintains the one in Mottville and it is stocked with books from the swap shop. This request will be looked into.

Financials

Director Marquis reviewed the proposed budget that had been developed by herself, Treasurer Molnar and Bookkeeper Betsy Carter and previously sent to board members. The budget has an increase of five percent overall (\$26,000 over last year) which is covered by the tax levy. The increase is a result of wage increases to keep pace with the rising minimum wage regulations and to reflect the excellent jobs that the staff members

do. Wage increases keep them comparable to similar jobs in other association libraries. Costs for participating in the OCPL Polaris system are going up, and more money had been allocated for collections. Last year we had the highest circulation since 2007, so people are definitely using the collection and we need to support it. We're maintaining spending for physical collections and allocating a small percentage more for digital. Digital resources are much more expensive than print, but we need to maintain our investment in them to provide the service that patrons expect.

Income consists of \$403,560 from the tax levy, state library aid, reimbursements from the Barrow, \$35,000 projected from the book sales, and a variety of other grants, gifts and contributions. \$72,233 will be drawn from reserves, which we took from investment income last year for the purpose of using this year.

Trustee Roller asked what happened to the bike racks that were positioned outside the library in previous years. They did not belong to the library. It was suggested that they belonged to either the village or the chamber of commerce and had been moved when one entrance to the central parking lot had been blocked off and are being used as a barrier.

Trustee Armijo asked why programming dollars were down. It was explained that the staff was very good at developing programs in-house or finding inexpensive or self-funding programs so the costs were going down. We also receive grants for specific programs, which supplements our offerings.

It was asked why costs were currently under budget and the reason is that some big expenditures (i.e., insurance) come due in September.

Fund Raising Committee

Trustee Palmieri reported that the Youle event was successful in that, although the group was small, the participants were in the target group and rapport was established. There will be follow-up. One participant was particularly interested and asked for additional information. The team is planning more events. Trustee Thomas has offered to host one.

On a very positive note, Director Marquis announced that the library will apply for a state construction grant this year, and we can continue to access this grant in the years to come as we progress through the build process. The library has used previous grants to help fund the purchase of the Fennell Street property, and at the Genesee Street building for the new lights, new front steps and the lift.

Communications Committee

Trustee Bedard reported that the committee has been assisting the fund raising committee with materials for their events. Next month's Stroll article will be about the guitar series as it is in its 10th year. Social media content will be out soon. Trustee Armijo reported that the Friends of the Library committee is working on future plans. There are 28 people who have joined so far. February is Library Lovers Month and they will plan for a big push then.

Barrow Art Gallery

Trustee Roller reported that the 200th John Barrow birthday event is scheduled on the lawn of the Sherwood Inn on Friday September, 6 from 6 to 9 P.M. She urged all board members to attend. She reported numbers at the gallery are up, with 25 for the past rainy Friday afternoon. Her walking tours are also very popular and will go on until Christmas. Several other people from the Barrow have volunteered to do the tours as well.

Trustee Roller also reported that President Hempson will be speaking to Sunrise Rotary about the building project this week.

Fennell Street New Building Committee

President Hempson reported that Schematic Design phase is over and the architects Oudens Ello (OEA) are working through the Design and Development (D/D) stage. There have been several adjustments to the design so far. The committee is meeting every two weeks so OEA can make suggested changes quickly.

President Hempson ran through a slide show of the latest renderings and pointed out the alterations that had been made so far. Trustees will get the renderings by email shortly. There was a discussion about heat pumps vs. geothermal heating and A/C. Initial costs for geothermal are very high (about \$1MM) even though there would be long term savings. The plan is to install EV stations which will generate income. Trustee Roller asked about the possibility of installing some now in the vacant lot. Trustee Hempson will look into this but it would be costly and only temporary once construction begins. Finishes and materials are still being researched. The cladding is likely to be Accoya which is an engineered softwood carrying a 50-year warranty.

Trustee Bedard asked if there was any feedback from donors and possible donors. Several said it was a beautiful building. The building is designed for the next 100 years so decision-makers must keep that in mind when making cost/benefit decisions.

Public Comment – none

One trustee thanked the library staff for welcoming children in during the days that school closed in the afternoons for the heatwaves.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 10, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. at the Library.