

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library (SPL)

October 11, 2023

Scott Meeting Room

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scarsdale Public Library was held on October 11, 2023 in the Scott Meeting Room.

The following participants were in attendance: Laura Liu, President; Jordan Copeland, Vice-President; Robert Jeremiah, Financial Officer; Diksha Mudbhary, Secretary; Stephanie Wechsler, Trustee; Betty Pforzheimer, Trustee; Jennifer Fischman, Trustee; Scott Gerwin, Trustee; Beth Bermel, Library Director; Nancy Kaplan, Friends of the Scarsdale Library.

Absent: Pedro Ladislau, Trustee; Sameer Ahuja, Village Trustee Liaison; Catherine Callegari, Assistant Director.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes from September 11, 2023 meeting: A motion was made by Betty, and seconded by Robert, to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2023 meeting. Minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Friends of the Scarsdale Library Report: Nancy Kaplan reported that the FoSL organized event “Fall Family Day” on October 8, 2023 went very well. The event was well attended with around 200 tickets sold, with families enjoying the range of activities on the lawn, including sports, meditation, and animals from the Weinberg Nature Center. The Library in the Park campaign reached its goal for the private phase and launched its public phase — paver sales. Future activities being planned include a Readathon in December aimed at Kindergarten through middle school students, and a Spelling Bee targeted at adults and high schoolers in March.

3. Director’s Report: There is no additional update beyond the Director’s Report. Diksha asked if the Recreation Department’s senior programming role will duplicate what the Library offers. Beth responded that the Library will closely coordinate with the Rec Department, and does not expect activities to be duplicative.

4. President’s Report: Laura reported that the presentation to the Village Board went well. Jennifer suggested there be more quantitative data to assess how many programs are oversubscribed. Scott asked if there is a need for increased security at the Library. The Police are increasing patrols at the schools and houses of worship in response to the Mideast conflicts. Beth confirmed she’ll discuss this with the Police Department.

5. Landscape Committee: There have been a lot of changes to the proposals and one of the challenges has been around insurance requirements. The two proposals will be sent out prior to the November 13th Board Meeting. Suggestion from a community member to look at flood water management during these plans, Beth confirmed that these are already included (storm drains, etc.).

6. Signage Committee: More signage has been put up since last month. They look great and enhance the patron experience. There are some signs that remain pending, including call numbers and exterior signage.

7. Policy Committee: Amendment to Request for Reconsideration Policy—**ACTION ITEM**

The amendment is to add a residency requirement that reads “The requestor must be a Scarsdale resident.” Jennifer made the motion to approve, and Stephanie seconded.

The Social Media Policy is currently being reviewed by a First Amendment lawyer. Beth plans to call a Policy Committee meeting to review the Program Policy and Meeting Room policy. Beth will also consider establishing a set of partnership guidelines.

8. Bylaws Committee: The Bylaws Committee met with Terry Kirchner, WLS Executive Director, on October 2nd to discuss SPL's charter and bylaws changes. It seems unlikely that the NYS Regents will approve the charter amendment that seeks to give all newly appointed trustees a full five-year term. They would still require the staggered term structure to be in place. The committee will continue to investigate options and make a recommendation to the full board.

9. Comments from the public: There was no comment from the public.

Stephanie made the motion to enter into Executive Session, seconded by Jordan at 8:28pm.

10. Executive Session - discuss information relating to a current investigation of a criminal offense and matters leading to the promotion of a particular person.

Motion to exit Executive Session made by Stephanie, and seconded by Jordan at 8:42pm.

Laura adjourned the Board meeting at 8:42 pm.

Submitted by Diksha Mudbhary