

SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
February 27, 2020  
The Honorable Karen B. Johnson Library

PRESENT: Jennifer Barnes, Cheryl Cufari, Deborah Escobar, Sharon Jordan, M. Joe Landry, William Levering, Steven McCutcheon, Tina Chericoni Versaci

Ex-Officio: Karen Bradley, Director; Peggy King, Schenectady County Legislature, Chair, Education and Libraries; Charlene Roman, Acting President, Friends of the Library; Janice P. Martin, Board Clerk

ABSENT: Portia Alston, Randy Fine, Heather Gray, Julie McDonnell, Carmel Patrick, Marsha Mortimore

GUEST: Christine Witkowski, Friends of the Library

A brief discussion took place before the meeting was called to order as everyone responded to William Levering's inquiry about their favorite book when they were growing up.

William Levering called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Jennifer Barnes issued the oath of office of treasurer to Tina Chericoni Versaci.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- William Levering received trustee Curtis Eatman's resignation.
- Board committees remain the same at this time.
- The Gazette featured an article about the location of the new fire station in Scotia, at the corner of Collins Park, near the Scotia Branch Library.
- Trustees can contact William Levering if they would like to nominate someone for the MVLS Award.
- Capital Region Chamber is hosting a dinner on March 26, 2020 at the Albany Capital Center. Trustees are welcome. If interested in attending, contact William Levering.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- NYLA's Library Advocacy Day is Tuesday, February 25, 2020. Karen Bradley and Deborah Escobar will attend with MVLS staff.
- A meeting was held on February 10, 2020 with Mont Pleasant staff to discuss a number of challenges they have faced since opening. Additional training will be provided to address these issues.
- Kaela Wallman, Kerri Messler from the Schenectady City School District, and Karen Bradley made a presentation to the Schenectady Zonta Club. They invited the library to submit an application to them to support the STARS program, which Kaela is preparing. Kaela has applied for two other grants to support the STARS program.
- Sharon Jordan and Karen Bradley met with Legislator Gary Hughes to review the Woodlawn renovation project. Karen was asked to join Legislator Hughes to attend the Woodlawn Neighborhood Association meeting to discuss the renovation projects and to get community feedback in what improvement they would like for their library.
- The article in the Gazette regarding the proposed location of a new Scotia Firehouse right next to the Scotia Library has drawn a significant amount of remarks by Scotia patrons and residents. The County is the only one that would comment and Scotia staff has been advised not to give their personal opinions on the matter.

- Devon Hedges and Karen Bradley participated in the County Public Health Services event to distribute the hand knit hats, mittens and scarves in the neediest parts of the city on February 21, 2020 at the Vale Cemetery/Park.
- Devon is attending the Public Library Association conference in Nashville, TN from February 25-29, 2020, thanks to the Friends of the Library.
- Deborah Escobar indicated a willingness to serve as one of the Schenectady County representatives on the MVLS Board of Directors.

#### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

- The Friends Annual dinner will be held on April 7, 2020 at the Glen Sanders Mansion. Guest speaker will be Willie Dean, Jr. New officers will be elected that evening.
- Beat the Snow Winter Concert Series continues until March 29, 2020.
- Spring book sale will be held on May 2 and 3, 2020.

#### ONE COUNTY ONE BOOK

- Author visit event with Delia Owens will be held on April 16, 2020 at Schenectady County Community College.
- Karen Bradley thanked Cheryl Cufari and Christine Witkowski for arranging and publicizing this amazing event.

#### BUILDING COMMITTEE

##### GOALS FOR 2020 AND STATUS:

- Complete new construction and rehabilitation at the Scotia Branch Library.
- Completion of the Mont Pleasant Branch Library. Sixth Avenue exit and entrance must be corrected, final paving completed, and final punch list items completed.
- Complete rehabilitation work at Woodlawn Branch.
- Annual review and tour of libraries, scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2020.
- Recommend capital projects for 2021 to the Finance Committee.
- Schedule all cleaning of carpets and windows for all libraries and complete.
- Complete Niskayuna Branch Library parking lot. Reconfiguration and handicapped accessibility.
- Preliminary planning for Esther Swanker's bequest fund.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Joe Landry made a motion to approve Resolution 1 – Approval of SCPL Board of Trustees Expenditures. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### BEQUEST COMMITTEE

- An initial meeting of the Bequest Committee was held today, February 27, 2020. They are working on a policy write-up relating to being a sub-committee of Finance Committee, how the funds will be spent, etc. In attendance today was Karen Bradley, Tina Chericoni Versaci, Joe Landry and Carmel Patrick.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING

- The minutes of the January 23, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Joe Landry, seconded by Sharon Jordan.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- A motion was made by Tina Chericoni Versaci, seconded by Sharon Jordan to accept the resignation of trustee, Curtis Eatman.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m. on a motion by Tina Chericoni Versaci, seconded by Sharon Jordan and approved unanimously.