

SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
March 24, 2022

PRESENT: Cheryl Cufari, Deborah Escobar, Randy Fine, David Fronk, Sharon Jordan, Joe Landry, Steven McCutcheon, Julie McDonnell, Carmel Patrick, Bernice Rivera, Haileab Samuel, Brenda Schworm, Angela Tatem, Tina Chericoni Versaci

ABSENT: Heather Gray

Ex-Officio: Karen Bradley, Director; Devon Hedges, Assistant Library Director III, Beth DeMidio, Assistant Library Director of Operations, Sara Mae Pratt, Schenectady County Legislature, Chair, Education and Libraries; Michelle Ostrellich, Schenectady County Legislature, Vice-Chair, Education and Libraries; Janice P. Martin, Board Clerk

GUESTS: Chinasa Seyse, Anne Skrebutenas, Kaela Wallman

Deborah Escobar called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Kaela Wallman, Coordinator of Youth Services, Ann Skrebutenas, Library Assistant for Youth Services and Chinasa Seyse, Librarian III for Youth Services all spoke during privilege of the floor. They thanked the Library Board of Trustees Fine Committee, the entire board and the County Legislature for their support. Being fine free will allow all of our patrons, particularly families with young children and students more access to materials, computers and unrestricted use of the library. It is a great step for literacy. Anne Skrebutenas passed around literature from research she did at other libraries; one in particular called "Read Down Your Fines."

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 24 MEETING

The minutes of the February 24, 2022 meeting were approved as submitted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Deborah Escobar thanked the Fine, Search and Policy Committees for their on-going work.
- National Library Week is April 3-9, 2022. It is a perfect time to write a letter to the editor about our library.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The Glenville Branch Library renovation is well underway and Niskayuna's project will begin on Monday, March 28.
- We had the formal presentation of the \$25,000 in Legislative aid to the Scotia Branch on February 28, 2022.
- Karen Bradley thanked the Board of Trustees Fine and Policy Committee for all of their hard work on creating a new policy that will eliminate fines for SCPL cardholders.
- We partnered with the Schenectady County Historical Society on their application to the Capital District Library Council for a \$5,000 grant.
- The Public Health Services Department will be coming back to KBJ on Sundays for a vaccine POD, as part of the return of the Greenmarket, to the area outside the McChesney Room.
- The Latinos collaborative vaccine POD held at Bornt on March 16, 2022 was a success.
- Karen Bradley and Beth DeMidio met with SCI to begin to prepare a plan for the Rotterdam Branch.

- Thanks to those who were able to participate in the annual NYLA advocacy virtual meetings.
- Stay tuned to our Facebook and Youth Services for some of our County Legislators who have been taped by Doug, reading a children's book.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

- The grand opening of the new location of the Whitney Book Corner is ****Wednesday, April 27, 2022. (**now changed to Tuesday, May 10 at 12:00 p.m.)** There was a tour of the new site at the March Friends Board meeting. Ray Gillen, from Metroplex, helped the Friends throughout the move to the new building.
- The next book sale will be held on April 30 and May 1, 2022. Volunteers are needed.

FINE/POLICY COMMITTEE

Julie McDonnell thanked Karen Bradley, Beth DeMidio and Devon Hedges for their work on the fine free policy. Carmel Patrick thanked Julie McDonnell, Steve McCutcheon, Sara Mae Pratt, the Policy Committee and the County Legislature for their work and support as well. She also thanked Randy Fine, as he researched this topic in the past.

The following Resolutions are based on information distributed at the February 24, 2022 Library Board of Trustees meeting.

- Resolution 1 – A Resolution to Eliminate Fines for Patrons of the Schenectady County Public Library. Carmel Patrick made a motion to approve, seconded by Cheryl Cufari. Motion passed.
- Resolution 2 – A Resolution to Amend Section 6.1 (Lending) and 6.2 (Fines and Fees) of the Board of Trustees Policy Manual. Steven McCutcheon made a motion to approve, seconded by Tina Chericoni Versaci. Motion passed.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- Complete Niskayuna Branch Library parking lot reconfiguration in spring/summer 2022. Complete several inside projects including a new circulation desk and electric upgrades.
- Complete upgrades at Glenville Branch Library in the spring of 2022.
- Rehab and upgrade Rotterdam Branch Library. Work should be completed by fall of 2022.
- Have a long term and sustainable landscaping plan in place for KBJ by spring of 2022.
- Work with the County for a long-term plan for annual carpet and window cleanings at all branches and KBJ.
- Begin planning for 2nd floor renovations at KBJ.
- Annual tour of all libraries will take place in 2022 to assess needs for 2023.
- Complete electrical upgrades at KBJ, Rotterdam and Niskayuna.
- Implement identified projects at Woodlawn Branch Library with an ear mark from Assemblyman Phil Steck of \$125,000. (On hold-3/23/22)
- Submit NYS Library Construction Grant application through MVLS in September.

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

Joe Landry presented the following Resolutions:

- Resolution 3 – A Resolution to amend the 2022 Board of Trustees Budget. Approval needed to transfer one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) from the Esther M. Swanker Bequest into the Glenville Branch account to allow payment for pending purchases. Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) is needed to continue the Glenville Branch renovation project. Fifty-three thousand dollars (\$53,000) is needed from the Rotterdam Branch account for the renovation project. Funds will need to be restored to the Esther M. Swanker Bequest account in the amount of \$125,000. Discussion ensued. A motion to approve was made by Sharon Jordan, seconded by Tina Chericoni Versaci. Motion passed.
- Resolution 4 – Approval of SCPL Board of Trustees Expenditures. A motion to approve was made by Tina Chericoni Versaci, seconded by Sharon Jordan. Motion passed.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

- Randy Fine, Haileab Samuel and Devon Hedges will meet briefly after this evening's meeting to discuss technology.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

- Karen Bradley distributed a *draft* of the 2021 annual report. The final report will be sent to trustees electronically and in person at the April board meeting.

The meeting moved to Executive Session at 6:37 p.m.

Reconvene regular meeting at 6:42 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

The next business meeting will be held on Thursday, April 28 at 6:00 p.m. at the Karen B. Johnson Central Library.