

SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
January 25, 2024

**PRESENT:** Cheryl Cufari, David Fronk, Sharon Jordan, Steve McCutcheon, Julie McDonnell, Jude McQueen, Carmel Patrick, Brenda Schworm, Angela Tatem, Madelyn Thorne, Tina Chericoni Versaci, Christine Witkowski

**ABSENT AND  
EXCUSED:** Bernice Rivera

**Ex-Officio:** Charity Thorne, Executive Director, Devon Hedges, Assistant Library Director; Beth DeMidio, Director of Operations; Haileab Samuel, Schenectady County Legislature, Chair, Education & Libraries; Michelle Ostreich, Schenectady County Legislature, Vice-Chair Education & Libraries; Charlene Roman, President, Friends of SCPL; Janice Martin, Board Clerk

**GUESTS:** Shirley DeBono, Doug Bixler, Christine Filippelli, Robin Pelton

Tina Chericoni Versaci called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – None.**

**OATHS OF OFFICE**

- Tina Chericoni Versaci issued the oaths of office to re-appointed trustees Madelyn Thorne and Steven McCutcheon.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- David Fronk presented the slate of officers for the two-year term, 2024-2025. He made a motion to approve.
  - President: Madelyn Thorne
  - Vice-President: Brenda Schworm
  - Treasurer: Carmel Patrick
  - Secretary: Angela Tatem
- Sharon Jordan seconded. Motion passed.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes for December 14, 2023
- b. Nominating Committee Meeting Minutes for December 20, 2023
- c. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes January 17, 2024
- d. Approval of Expenditures – Resolution 1
- e. 2024 Board Meeting Dates

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Carmel Patrick, seconded by Sharon Jordan. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF LONG-RANGE PLAN – Resolution 2**

- A motion to approve Resolution 2, Long Range Plan of Service, was made by Christine Witkowski, seconded by Julie McDonnell. Motion passed.

#### APPROVAL OF CENTRAL LIBRARY PLAN

- A motion to approve the Central Library Plan was made by Carmel Patrick, seconded by Steven McCutcheon. After lengthy discussion among trustees, it was decided to table the motion until the February 22, 2024 board meeting.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Madelyn Thorne announced that she is honored to be leading the Schenectady County Public Library Board of Trustees. She acknowledged that many of the trustees have been on the board for many years and their knowledge is invaluable to her. She would like to define "what is the role of the board of trustees."
- A "Committee" interest survey was distributed to trustees. Please fill out and return to Janice Martin.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Trustees reviewed the written report submitted by Charity Thorne.

#### Highlights:

- Library Assistant Civil Service Class Specification is being updated. Four-year degree is no longer required; it allows growth opportunity to our current staff.
- Library Calendar to replace our current room reservation and event calendar software, Eventkeeper. Will launch in May 2024.
- Receiving quotes as we are looking forward to launching a new website.
- Our newly designed library cards have arrived. They also come with a key tag.

#### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

- The Winter Book Sale will be held on Saturday, February 3 from 10-4 and Sunday, February 4 from 12-3.
- The Friends have a new Community Outreach Committee. These former teachers who make up the group will be offering scholarships at eight different high schools.
- Volunteer Outreach at Senior Living Communities. The Friends and Library Board of Trustees have partnered with Senior Living Communities to update their libraries. Charlene Roman thanked Cheryl Cufari, Chair of the SCPL Planning Committee. The SCPL Board of Trustees is required to have a long range plan of service, which includes outreach to people who may not have access.
- A Peer Partnership Homework & Reading Support Program will be offered at the Karen B. Johnson Library beginning January 8, 2024. The sessions will be offered to children in grades K-3. One of the National Honor Society students from Niskayuna High School is active in the Friends of the Library.

Madelyn Thorne thanked Charlene Roman and Shirley DeBono. Discussion ensued regarding financial parameters of the Friends of the Library and the Library Board of Trustees.

#### BUILDING COMMITTEE

- The Building Committee report was missing from the board packet. Jan Martin will email the document to all on Friday, January 26, 2024.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – None.

PLANNING COMMITTEE – None.

POLICY COMMITTEE – None.

#### MVLS REPRESENTATIVE

- Advocacy Day is Wednesday, February 7, 2024. Carpooling is available at the MVLS Headquarters at 858 Duaneburg Road.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Carmel Patrick suggested that trustees do the yearly 2-hour training together. She will volunteer to arrange it.
- Carmel Patrick and Madelyn Thorne thanked Tina Chericoni Versaci for filling in as President mid-term beginning January 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. on a motion by Jude McQueen, seconded by Cheryl Cufari.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Swanker Boardroom at the Karen B. Johnson Library.