

SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
March 28, 2024

PRESENT: Justin Chaires, Cheryl Cufari, David Fronk, Steve McCutcheon, Julie McDonnell, Jude McQueen, Carmel Patrick (Zoom), Bernice Rivera, Brenda Schworm, Angela Tatem, Madelyn Thorne, Tina Chericoni Versaci

ABSENT AND
EXCUSED: Sharon Jordan

STAFF: Charity Thorne, Executive Director; Devon Hedges, Assistant Library Director; Beth DeMidio, Director of Operations; Janice Martin, Board Clerk; Doug Bixler, Support Services Manager; Michelle Dannenhoffer-Cau, Public Services Manger

GUESTS: Laura Baker, Chief Information Officer, Schenectady County; Shirley DeBono, First Vice-President, Friends of the Library; Luke Fitch, Deputy Information Officer, Schenectady County; Michelle Ostrelich, Schenectady County Legislature, Vice-Chair Education & Libraries; Charlene Roman, President, Friends of the Library

Madelyn Thorne called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Deborah Noyes, a retired librarian from Schenectady County Public Library and library patron for over 50 years expressed her concerns about the recent news of SCPL withdrawing from the Joint Automation Project.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes for February 29, 2024
- b. Planning Committee Meeting Minutes March 15, 2024
- c. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes March 21, 2024
- d. Approval of Expenditures – Resolution 1

President Thorne informed the Board that the Central Library Plan had not passed as indicated in the February meeting.

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Bernice Rivera, seconded by Steve McCutcheon. Motion passed.

OATH OF OFFICE

- Tina Chericoni Versaci issued the oath of office to trustee Justin Chaires.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

- After trustees introduced themselves to Justin Chaires, Madeline Thorne introduced two members of the Friends of Library, Charlene Roman, President and Shirley DeBono, First Vice President.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Trustees reviewed the written report submitted by Charity Thorne. Executive Director Thorne also highlighted:

- Launch of wireless printing service
- Arrival of the replacement 2nd floor staff copier
- Replacement of the Automated Materials Handling Unit (almost completed)

Discussion ensued regarding logistical details as the library goes through the lengthy process of withdrawing from JA.

Charity Thorne introduced Laura Baker, Chief Information Officer of the Schenectady County IT Department. Laura briefly reviewed County IT Policies. Discussion ensued.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

- Save the date: June 7, 2024 for Friends Picnic at Central Park Pavilion. More info to come.
- Friends Annual Dinner: Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 6:00 pm at Turf Tavern.
- Oakroom Artists Display at Whitney Book Corner.
- Spring Book Sale: Saturday, May 4 from 10-4 and Sunday, May 5 from 12-3.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

- Written report included in Board agenda packet.
- Annual Branch Tour: Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- \$1,000 has been allocated for Friends Picnic on June 7, 2024.

PLANNING

- Planning meeting held on March 15, 2024.
- Need for Strategic Planning Consultant. The Committee recommended delaying the hire of a Strategic Planning Consultant until next year.
- Four major initiatives for 2024:
 - Hours Expansion
 - Withdrawal from Joint Automation
 - Programming Initiatives
 - New SCPL Website

POLICY COMMITTEE – None.

MVLS REPRESENTATIVE – None.

NEW BUSINESS

- David Fronk asked about the application process through MVLS for New York State Construction Grants. Carmel Patrick reported that the grants are awarded based on each library's needs. Beth DeMidio added that library construction is supported by Capital Project funds; Glenville's renovation was supported through a substantial bequest left to the branch.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Swanker Boardroom at the Karen B. Johnson Central Library.