

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

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

ABSENT: Heather Gray, Haileab Samuel, Tina Chericoni Versaci

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; Janice P. Martin, Board Clerk

Deborah Escobar called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

No one spoke during privilege of the floor.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING

- The minutes of the January 27, 2022 meeting were approved as submitted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Deborah Escobar thanked Tina Versaci for her leadership on the Search Committee and Julie McDonnell for her data gathering and organizational skills on the Fines Committee. She also thanked members of both committees.
- Included in trustee packet is an article from the New York Times: "Book Ban Efforts Spread Across the U.S." This is a troubling trend that has been in the news.
- National Library Week is April 3-9. April 6 is *National Library Outreach Day* and April 7 is *Take Action for Libraries Day*.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Zoom meetings were held today with Senator Michelle Hinchey's Office and Senator James Tedisco for NYLA Advocacy Day. Sharon Jordan and Angela Tatem were able to join the meetings with Karen Bradley and Devon Hedges.
- Trustees will be asked to sign a letter to Schenectady County New York State Legislative Representatives to show support for the Library Construction Aid Program. \$45 million is the current budget request for Library Construction Aid.
- Mary Beth Walsh will be presenting the \$25,000 check at the Scotia Branch Library on Monday, February 28, 2022.
- The Glenville Branch Library will be closed beginning February 28 until the end of March for the renovation project. In addition, the Niskayuna Branch renovation will take place in late March.
- Administration provided Trustee Chair of the Fine Committee, Julie McDonnell, with a variety of financial reports and information from local library systems to share with Committee members, along with national information on the topic of going fine free. She will make a presentation this evening.
- Beginning February 23, 2022 library patrons in MVLS and SALS will be able to apply online or a library card, called an ecard.
- Planning for our goal of the Karen B. Johnson Library becoming a Family Place Library, like our Bornt Library has begun.
- Thanks to our Friends of the Library for running a highly successful Winter Book Sale the first weekend in February.

FINES COMMITTEE

- Julie McDonnell distributed a draft report from the Board of Trustees Fine Free Committee.
- Highlights from the report include:
 - Late fines serve as a barrier to equitable access.
 - Late fines do not increase personal responsibility or provide a proven incentive for the return of library materials.
 - Patrons are more likely to come back to the library and return their borrowed books and materials, without the financial penalty or shame associated with owing fines.
 - In Schenectady County, 26% of current library cardholders have a \$5 or greater balance on their account, effectively blocking them from borrowing materials, or using computer and other services.
 - Fines are not a stable source of funding.
 - Many of our surrounding library branches and systems have eliminated late fines in the past several years, and many more are currently in the process.
 - Now is the right time for SCPL to eliminate late fines for books and materials for our county residents.
- Next Steps:
 - Develop specific implementation policies, procedures and strategies.
 - Adopt BOT Fine-Free Resolution.
 - Prepare public presentation for County Manager & Legislature.

BRANCH COMMITTEE – No report.

BUILDING COMMITTEE - Goals for 2022 and Monthly Status

- Complete Niskayuna Branch Library parking lot reconfiguration project in the spring of 2022. Complete several inside projects, including a new circulation desk and electrical upgrades.
- Complete upgrades at Glenville Branch Library in the spring of 2022.
- Rehab and upgrade Rotterdam Branch Library.
- Work with Metroplex for a long-term sustainable landscaping plan for KBJ.
- Work with County for a long-term plan for annual carpet and window cleaning.
- Replace Bornt Branch Library carpet.
- Begin discussions with County for 2nd floor plans at KBJ. Complete electrical upgrades.
- Annual tour of all nine libraries on Monday, April 4, 2022.
- Submit NYS Library Construction application to MVLS in September if there are projects that are eligible and needed.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Joe Landry presented the following resolutions:

- Resolution 1 – Approval of Schenectady County Public Library System – Karen B. Johnson Central Library – Second Floor Renovation Feasibility Study. Discussion ensued. Sharon Jordan made a motion to approve, seconded by Julie McDonnell. Motion passed.
- Resolution 2 – Approval of SCPL Board of Trustees Expenditures. Carmel Patrick made a motion to approve, seconded by Steven McCutcheon. Motion passed.

PLANNING COMMITTEE – No Report.

POLICY COMMITTEE

- Steven McCutcheon presented a first reading of the amendment to the SCPL Policy Document: 6.1 Lending Policy. Discussion ensued.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – No report.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

Adjourn at 7:15 p.m. to Executive Session for matters relating to Personnel.

Reconvene regular meeting at 7:18 pm. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

The next business meeting will be held on Thursday, March 24 at 6:00 p.m. at the Karen B. Johnson Central Library.