

The Nyack Library
Board of Trustees
Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting
June 8, 2015

Present:

E. Michael Growney, **President**
Mary Anne Evangelist, **Vice President**
Stephen Beck, **Treasurer**
Debra Karten, **Secretary**
Christopher Bresnan
Peter Danish
Kevin Doyle
Karen Roberts
Roger Seiler
Peter Vermazen

Absent:

* Tracie McLee

***=Excused**

Staff: Jane Marino, Library Director
Sharon Alfano, Business Manager
Minerva Parker, Board Clerk

Visitors: (see attached list)

Call to Order:

Board President Mr. Growney called the Regular Monthly Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Agenda Approval:

Upon motion by Mr. Seiler and seconded by Ms. Karten, the revised agenda was unanimously approved by the Board.

Public Comments:

Mr. Growney welcomed the members of the public present at the meeting and advised them to list their names on a sheet provided by the Board Secretary if they wished to make a comment during the meeting. All comments were limited to three minutes, with speakers residing within the Nyack Library's service area given the privilege of speaking first, after which non-residents were provided an opportunity to speak. Mr. Growney urged the speakers to avoid repetition.

Mr. Growney reviewed the Board of Trustees' unanimous decision of May 8 to revise the manner in which the Library will continue to present the classical music component of the Carnegie Concerts. The Board's position was summarized in a letter to the public dated May 29, 2015. That letter was also placed on the Library's website. In that

letter, the Board stated that the significant chronic financial losses in the classical program required a change in the Library's support for the program format. In the future, this program will operate under the same principle as the jazz and popular music programs. The Library will provide a venue for the concerts, while the concert promoters will assume responsibility for advertising, performer compensation, and ticket sales. Mr. Growney formally entered that letter into the minutes of this Board meeting.

Ms. Marino then provided the Board and the public with a Power Point presentation on the specific details for all future music programming in the Carnegie Concert series. She emphasized that the Library intends to maintain a robust music program in the classical, jazz, and popular genres. The latter two music formats are already managed by the Rockland Jazz & Blues Society and ArtsRock, respectively, using the Library's Carnegie-Farian Room as a rental space. The classical programming will need a similar sponsor. Two outside organizations have already expressed an interest in assuming that role. The Library will establish a committee under the Director's supervision to evaluate the proposals from those independent groups. That committee will then recommend a path forward to the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Growney then opened the floor for public comments, beginning with residents in the Library's service area.

Mr. Steve Safran of South Nyack asked if anything could be done to continue the classical concerts, as he felt they are a cultural pillar of the community. Mr. Donald Burd of Nyack felt the classical concerts are a big draw for Rockland County. Ms. Tammy Lum of Nyack felt that the Library's statistics regarding the percentage of classical music attendees who are local residents vs non-local are inconsistent. Mr. Leo Li of Nyack asked if his money paid for library taxes can be used to fund the classical concerts, since he only comes to library for concerts and doesn't use the Library for any other purpose. Nancy Single of Nyack mentioned that streaming of the classical concerts might provide a revenue source to offset the deficits. Mr. Jerome Solomon of Nyack, a 36-year resident, borrows books because of his attendance at the classical concerts. Mr. Solomon felt the classical concerts are the best thing that has ever happened to Nyack and encouraged the Board to figure a way to continue the classical concert series.

Ms. Dorothy Whitton of Nyack commented that the Carnegie Concerts generates local business also, when concert attendees eat at local establishments before attending the concert. Mr. Robert Whiteley of Nyack would like the Board to reconsider the classical concerts in their current format. Mr. Tom Englert of Nyack stated the concerts are a cultural and economic resource for the community. Mr. Tom Mulhern of Nyack said that the concerts are unique to Nyack in comparison to concerts at Lincoln Center, which he also attends. Ms. Laura Levine of South Nyack commented that she and her family love attending the classical concerts and would like them to continue.

With no more local residents prepared to speak, Mr. Growney opened the floor to non-residents after the Board has conducted its meeting.

Mr. Yashar Yaslowitz of Mahwah, NJ objected to the termination of the classical concerts in their recent form. He delivered a petition requesting retaining the concerts as in the past. Mr. Yaslowitz went on to present budgetary data from other Rockland libraries that suggest they dedicate more financial resources to musical concerts than the Nyack Library. Mr. Michael Minevich of Suffern mentioned that he is a Trustee of the Suffern Library. Suffern has musical concerts but they are not on the same level as the Carnegie classical concerts. Mrs. Ufuk Yaslowitz of Suffern read letters of in support of the classical concerts from Susan Hendricks, a Nyack resident, County Legislator Harriet Cornell and Judith Kurland. Mr. Larry Yaslowitz of Suffern has a great appreciation of classical music, because of his son. He asked the Board to consider continuing the classical concerts in their recent form. Mr. Jerome Cohen of Ramsey NJ questioned the financial accounting on the losses on the classical concerts and asked why the Library allowed the losses to continue for years. Mr. Neville Clyme of Suffern requested that the Board

consider deferring the decision to change the format of the concerts for another year. He also suggested conducting a community survey on their interest in continuing the classical concerts in their recent form.

Mr. Growney thanked the public for their comments and closed the public comment period.

Review of the Minutes:

Upon motion by Dr. Evangelist and seconded by Mr. Seiler, it was resolved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 11, 2015. The Board approved, with one abstention.

Director's Report:

Mrs. Marino asked the Board if they had any questions or discussions on the Director's Report. Mr. Bresnan stated he was impressed by the amount of money the Friends Book Sale made. Mrs. Marino commented that it was also Street Fair Sunday and they would try to schedule it on a different Sunday next time. Mr. Seiler inquired about the Children's Room window repair and if we knew what caused the window to crack. Mrs. Marino responded that they offered no explanation on the cause. Mr. Vermazen asked if we informed the architect, Michael Esmay, and if not he should be informed of this situation.

Upon motion by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Dr. Evangelist, it was resolved to approve the personnel actions put forth in the Director's Report.

Upon motion by Mr. Bresnan, seconded by Mr. Danish, it was resolved to accept the Technology & Outreach Inventory Report. The yes vote was unanimous.

Financial Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

Mr. Beck reported that the interest on Series A and B bonds was paid on May 28. The Preliminary Budget was discussed and Mr. Beck noted there was a minor reallocation of funds between categories but the forecast of aggregate revenues and expenses for FY 2016 were unchanged. Mrs. Marino went over the details of the Preliminary Budget.

The Library has received written inspection reports from DR Pilla, Architect/Engineer, on the DePew and Stevenson Houses. The reports include a prioritized list of needed repairs for each property. The inspection reports were forwarded to the Historical Society of the Nyacks for review and comment.

Mr. Beck reported cash balances as of May 31 were \$778,916. For the first eleven months of fiscal year, Operations realized a cash surplus of \$24,396. Year-to-date the Depew House operated at a cash deficit and is projecting a loss for 2015. The Stevenson House produced a cash surplus for the first eleven months of the Fiscal Year. Carnegie Concerts revenues for the month were \$1,900 but programming and advertisement costs consumed those revenues. Year-to-date the Parking Lot experienced a cash deficit. For all of FY 2015 the Parking Lot is projected to lose \$9,000. The losses can be eliminated when the Parking Lot becomes tax exempt Library property. Mrs. Marino mentioned that the Village of Nyack had accepted the Parking Lot agreement and the first invoice was sent to them on June 1.

Upon motion by Mr. Seiler, seconded by Dr. Evangelist the Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Report.

Upon motion by Ms. Roberts and seconded by Ms. Karten the Board unanimously approved the Financial Statements.

Upon motion by Dr. Evangelist and seconded by Ms. Roberts it was resolved that the Nyack Library Board of Trustees approve the following disbursements for May 1 - 31, 2015 which have been reviewed by the President and the Treasurer: Operating Expenses of \$76,369.41, Payroll Disbursement for pay date May 1 for \$52,530.40, Payroll Disbursement for pay date May 15 for \$52,713.14, Payroll Disbursement for pay date May 29 for \$52,911.49. The yes vote was unanimous.

Upon motion by Dr. Evangelist, seconded by Ms. Karten the Board agreed unanimously to accept the Preliminary Budget FY 2016.

Committee Reports:

Building and Property Committee:

Mr. Vermazen reported the Committee met on Saturday, June 6, 2015 to review the inspection reports from DR Pilla, Architect/Engineer, for the DePew and Stevenson Properties. Mr. Win Perry, Architect/Historical Society of the Nyacks, will review the reports and give feedback; steps could then be taken to set up the RFP's, request for the proposals.

Development Committee:

Upon motion by Dr. Evangelist and seconded by Mr. Doyle, it was resolved unanimously to accept the gifts with our thanks to the donors.

Old Business:

The Annual Conflict of Interest Statements were signed and returned to Mr. Seiler. Ms. McLee's statement will be mailed to her, in her absence.

New Business:

None.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Dr. Evangelist and seconded by Mr. Vermazen, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. The yes vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Minerva Parker
Board Clerk