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Sunday April 24, 2022

We, the members of The Nyack Library Board of Trustees, express our sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone in our community for your active engagement with us in support of our Library as a critical institution in our Village.

During recent Board meetings, members of the public expressed some confusion about our most recent Board election process, so we wish to clarify what happened, and communicate what we will do to help improve transparency and communication going forward, so everyone in our community may be better informed as we work together with you to ensure our Library remains a vibrant, valued resource for us all.

In January 2022, voters in our library service area elected two new members and re-elected a third trustee to the Nyack Public Library Board of Trustees. In prior years, similarly eligible voters had elected the trustees who were continuing their terms in office.

Following the election, the re-elected trustee made the personal choice to resign immediately. While we prefer that resignations be made with advance notice, it is not mandated in the bylaws. Indeed, the bylaws do not require a written resignation, and state, “*Any trustee resigning from the board prior to term expiration should provide both the Board’s president and secretary with a letter of resignation.*” The resignation was stated verbally at the meeting and followed up in writing. That trustee’s letter of resignation is on file.

Additionally, the bylaws state: “*Any vacancy shall be filled by nomination provided by the Nominating Committee.*” As that now-resigned trustee considered her action aloud, the Nominating Committee (Ellyse Berg, Chairperson, Bebb Stone, and Roger Seiler) conferred. Ellyse and Bebb, seated next to each other, agreed on a process should there be a resignation. Ellyse, as Chair, asked Roger to confer in the hall. These were sidebar discussions and therefore not included in the meeting minutes.

After the trustee resigned and departed the meeting, the Nominating Committee moved to appoint Mike Growney (who had come in fourth place in voting for the three open seats) to fill that unexpired term until the next Association Annual Meeting in January, 2023. That motion carried by majority vote. As required by the bylaws, “*the election of Board officers for the ensuing year [be done] by secret ballot.*” That was also done and included Mike for the office of the President, which also passed by majority vote. There was, and is, a strong feeling among most currently serving Board members that Mike’s service, never loud or self-serving, has achieved significant organizational gains including saving over \$200,000 tax dollars annually for residents in our community (equivalent to 5% savings in taxes every year).

The Board of Trustees regrets the misunderstandings around these events and is saddened by the ill will some misinterpretations have engendered. Members of the community have recently offered suggestions on how we can improve transparency around our processes to avoid potential confusion in the future. We are

considering these suggestions, including potential changes to our bylaws and Board policies, which would be made through our ongoing formal Board processes. We will continue to communicate with the public on all changes as they occur, both through our monthly Board meetings and other appropriate avenues (for example, notification on the Library website).

As a further reminder, Board meetings are open to the public and include time for public comment. Meetings are held in the Community Room at the Library at 7:00 PM, typically on the third Monday of each month, except for January and when the third Monday falls on a holiday. Meeting notices and documents are posted on the Library website. Audio recordings of past meetings are also available at [www.nyacklibrary.org/board-meeting-recordings.html](http://www.nyacklibrary.org/board-meeting-recordings.html)

We hope to see you at upcoming Board meetings and welcome your input during those meetings or via the methods mentioned above. Thank you again for your continuing interest and support of the Nyack Library.

Sincerely,

*Ellyse Okin Berg*

*Steve Cea*

*Peter Danish*

*Tracy Dressner*

*E. Michael Grouney*

*Wayne Henry*

*Brian Murrell*

*Michael Penn*

*Roger Seiler*

*Bobb Wheeler Stone*

*Valerie Williams - Sanchez*