

The Nyack Library
Minutes of the Regular
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Present:

Steven Cea, **President**
Ellyse Okin Berg, **1st Vice President**
Tracy Dressner, **2nd Vice President-**
 telephone conference/non voting
Wayne Henry, **Secretary**
Brian Murrell, **Treasurer**
Diane Christian
Jeremiah Conway
Tamara Jhashi
Moriah Olsen
Michael Penn
Daniel Wolff

Absent:

Staff: Eric McCarthy, Library Director
Ed Falcone, Interim Library Director
Sharon Alfano, Business Manager
Minerva Parker, Board Clerk

Call to Order:

The Board President Mr. Cea called the Regular Monthly Meeting of February 21, 2023, to order at 7:10 p.m., in the Community Meeting Room.

Agenda Approval:

Upon motion by Mr. Murrell, seconded by Ms. Christian, it was resolved to approve the agenda as presented. There were 10 yes votes, one abstention.

Special Presentation:

Mr. Cea, President, thanked Bebb Wheeler Stone for her service to the Board, 2019-2023. She most recently served on the Director's Search Committee as co-chair. Mr. Cea thanked E. Michael Growney for his service to the Board, 1999-2023, he has served as President for the last ten years, led the expansion project in 2007, has shown continuity as President and worked for the betterment of the community. Mr. Cea thanked Roger Seiler for his service to the Board, 1977-2023. Mr. Seiler led the library expansion in 2007 and 2013, which added 21000 sq. ft. to the building. He was instrumental in revising the Library Charter. Collectively these Trustees have more than 70 years of service

to the Nyack Library. In recognition for their service each was presented with a with a framed picture of the Nyack Library by Cynthia Reid, local artist.

Mr. Cea congratulated and welcomed the new Board members. Mr. Cea also welcomed the new Library Director, Eric McCarthy.

Review of the Minutes:

Upon motion by Mr. Penn, seconded by Mr. Murrell, the Board approved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, January 17, 2023, with grammatical changes under the Nominating Committee Report. There were 6 yes votes, new members abstained.

Mr. Cea spoke to the Board members about new beginnings and the opportunity to correct things from the past and do them better. After speaking with community members and Trustees, Mr. Cea proposed a few changes like starting each meeting with a Special Presentation, holding Public Forums a few times a year, having some additional training for Trustees, goal development and to have fun.

Mr. Cea announced there will be an Open House, April 1, 2023, 1-3 pm, to meet the new Library Director.

Mr. Cea thanked everyone for coming out to vote, it was the 2nd highest turnout since 1987. The tie vote in the Trustee Election was resolved with a coin toss, witnessed by three staff members. The two Trustees were contacted about the results and they agreed to resolve the tie with a coin toss. Tamara Jhashi will serve the two-year term, Michael Penn will serve the one-year term. This was the first year the Budget Vote & Trustee Election were held at the same time. We are already noting changes for improvement in the process for next year. Mr. Cea addressed the language on the ballot and the order candidates are listed on the ballot.

Director's Report:

Mr. Cea acknowledged the work done by Mr. Falcone, as Interim Director, for the last eight months. Mr. Falcone brought stability to the Library during a time when it was most needed, and he put in place three grant applications during his time here.

Mr. McCarthy thanked everyone for helping with the transition into his new position, and feels fortunate to be selected as the next Library Director. Mr. McCarthy thanked Mr. Falcone for his assistance during this transition.

Mr. Falcone submitted his last written Director's Report to the Board Members. Mr. Falcone reported that due to the multiple false alarms generated between December 2022 and January 2023, a summons was issued and he would need to appear in court to address the issue and could be liable for fines for exceeding the false alarms limit. We now have a brand-new panel, so it shouldn't happen again. All existing vacancies have been filled. Still working on the grant for the Heat Pump System. I want to personally thank Minerva for handling the Election, she did a yeoman's job carrying it off successfully. Mr. Falcone stated he had a pleasant and constructive time serving as the Interim Director of the Nyack Library. He thanked everyone and the Board for their patience and faith in him and wished Eric good luck inheriting a wonderful library.

Upon motion by Mr. Henry, seconded by Mr. Penn, the Board unanimously approved the Personnel Actions Report. There were 10 yes votes.

Upon motion by Mr. Murrell, seconded by Ms. Berg, the Board unanimously accepted the Inventory Report. There were 10 yes votes.

Public Comments: (full Board Meeting comments may be heard here <https://soundcloud.com>)

Christine Nicolaou, resident, would like more Carnegie Concerts. Ms. Nicolaou would like the Board to consider expanding the Carnegie Concerts to include Fridays.

Gerald McCarthy, resident, asked why the Trustee ballot stated “vote for 6”, when you could only vote for 3. Mr. Cea clarified that there were 6 open seats and there were 6 candidates to run for those seats, and you could vote for up to 6. That was the clarification being made. Mr. McCarthy asked how the order on the ballot was determined. Mr. Cea explained why they list the Board Candidates, then the Petition Candidates in the order they were placed on the ballot.

Mark Dery, resident, welcomed the new Director, Eric McCarthy and congratulated the new members of the Board. Looking forward to a new direction with the Board and enheartened with the bold new initiatives President Cea made at the beginning of the meeting. The suggestion of offering an annual or bi-annual town hall or community forum, has been called for in the past. Mr. Dery appreciated Mr. Cea’s clarification of the Election situation. Would like to suggest for the future to list candidates alphabetically on the ballot.

Committee Reports:

Development Committee:

Upon motion by Ms. Berg, to accept the Gifts & Grants Report for January 2023, and seconded by Ms. Christian the Board resolved to accept with appreciation \$1,156.20 in Designated support to the Annual Appeal, and \$200 in Designated support to Adult Senior Programming. The 2023 Annual Development Appeal total to date has brought in \$10,233.20 in donations. There were 10 yes votes.

Policy Development & Long-Range Planning Committee:

Ms. Berg reported for the Committee, that each year the Trustees must sign a Conflict of Interest Statement. Ms. Berg explained the policy and asked each Board member to sign and fill-out the statement portion and return it to the Board Clerk, by the March meeting.

Building & Property Committee:

Mr. Henry reported that the Committee is currently pursuing grants for the Heat Pump project.

Nominating Committee:

Ms. Berg reported there are no vacant seats currently, but the Nominating Committee is always taking applications for Trustees.

Audit Committee:

Mr. Henry reported the Audit was completed, the reports have been delivered and all new Trustees will receive a bound copy of the Financial Statements FY June 30, 2022.

Finance Committee:

Mr. Murrell reported the Committee met last week and reviewed the grants process. Keeping a watch on the interest rates. LIBOR is being discontinued as an interest rate, so we will switch to a standard overnight finance rate.

Financial Reports:

Treasurer’s Report:

Mr. Murrell reviewed the details of the Treasurer’s Report with the Board. On January 31, cash balance totaled \$832,103. Long term debt on the 2017 tax-exempt bond with TD Bank, \$6,700,108. Disbursements for Board approval

for January 2023 total \$256,776.66. The Library operated at a \$152,873 surplus and the DePew House operated at a \$4,681 surplus.

Upon motion by Mr. Murrell, seconded by Mr. Henry, the Library Board unanimously accepted the Financial Statements as presented including the Summary of Key Balance Sheet Amounts as of January 31, 2023 and the January 2023 Performance Report. There were 10 yes votes.

Upon motion by Mr. Murrell and seconded by Mr. Penn, it was resolved that the Nyack Library Board of Trustees approve the following disbursements reported for January 2023 which have been reviewed by the President and/or the Vice President, Secretary and the Treasurer: General Fund Expenses of \$94,659.88, Rental Fund Expenses of \$10,980.13, Debt Fund Expenses for \$36,322.94, Payroll Disbursement for pay date January 13, 2023 for \$57,504.50, and Payroll Disbursement for pay date January 27, 2023 for \$57,309.21 for a total of \$256,776.66. There were 10 yes votes.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Mr. Cea spoke about the Library's Artwork placement and collection management. Spoke with someone from Hopper House who may be able to help.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Ms. Christian, seconded by Ms. Berg, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 8:10 pm. There were 10 yes votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Minerva Parker

Board Clerk