

SCRANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

June 16, 2022

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Scranton Public Library was held on Thursday, June 16, 2022, in the Henkelman Room and virtually. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by President Dr. Mayers.

Present: Dr. Kenneth Mayers, President

Ms. Sharon Quinn, Vice-President

Ms. Karen Bazzarri, Secretary

Mr. John Cowder

Ms. Mary Beth D'Andrea

Mr. William Davis

Dr. Daniel Ginsberg

Atty. Jaime Hailstone

Ms. Linda Koons

Mr. Tim McCabe

Ms. Laurel Radzieski

Also: Mr. Scott Thomas, CEO

Ms. Michelle Legate, District Consultant

Ms. Joan Hodowanitz, LCLS Board Member

Ms. Jenny Shoener, Assistant to the CEO

Absent: Mr. Joseph X. Garvey, Treasurer
 Mr. James Henkelman
 Ms. Glynis Johns
 Atty. Brian Lenahan
 Ms. Evie Rafalko McNulty
 Ms. Betsey Moylan
 Rabbi Dovid Rosenberg
 Ms. Barbara McGee, Friends of the Scranton Public Library

Dr. Mayers asked if anyone had questions regarding the May Consent Agenda items. Ms. Bazzarri asked when the following biannual statistical comparisons would be presented. Mr. Thomas confirmed they would be in July's report. Ms. Koons motioned to accept the Minutes of the May meeting, the May Treasurer's Report, the May Statistics Report, and the Staff report as printed, Dr. Ginsberg seconded, and the motion passed.

Communication and Public Comment – No correspondence. Ms. Hodowanitz commented regarding Swingin' on Vine. She was pleased with the event's outcome, stating it was well-planned and organized. A discussion followed regarding changes that could be made for Swingin' on Vine 2023.

The Finance Committee Report was presented by Mr. Thomas. Investments had a small gain this month due to the availability of the Scranton Area Foundation quarterly report.

The Facilities Committee Report was presented by Mr. Cowder. The library has been awarded \$100,000 from the Local Share Account grant for Albright's roof repairs. The projected cost of the project is \$269,000. The project timeline is dependent on the contracting process with the State and the City. An LOI has been sent to the Scranton Area Foundation for a \$10,000 grant.

The Fundraising Committee Report was presented by Ms. Quinn. Mr. Thomas shared that The Nancy Kay Holmes Renovation Community Committee met on June 8, 2022. Nine people attended. Traffic concerns were discussed. A new traffic light, crosswalks, and signaling will be installed in September. Contact has been made with the city about a stop sign on the corner of Marion and Wyoming. Ms. Quinn recapped that over \$80,000 is committed from Foundations. Banks are now being approached. The Friends will donate all proceeds from their July 16th sidewalk sale to the renovation project.

A family-friendly kick-off event will be held at the Branch on September 17th. Austin Burke's building painting will be used for PR, and an event in 2023 will display the finished artwork. Josh Cowder was hired to create renderings of the building. Candidates for the project's Honorary Chair were discussed.

The Governance Committee Report was presented by Mr. Hailstone. An interview with a Board member prospect is scheduled for next week.

The Public Relations Committee Report was presented by Mr. Davis. Now that Swingin' on Vine is over, the focus will shift to the Nancy Kay Holmes kick-off in September. He will be scheduling a meeting of the committee.

The Bookmobile Replacement Committee Report was presented by Ms. Bazzarri. There hasn't been news from the Commissioner's office regarding funding for the new vehicle.

The Nancy Kay Holmes Steering Committee Report was already given by Ms. Quinn and Mr. Thomas during the Fundraising Report.

The District Consultant's Report was presented by Ms. Legate; she is waiting to hear about the State budget and is optimistic we will see an increase in State Aid. Influential advocates for library funding, Stan Saylor and Pat Browne, lost primary votes, which may complicate advocacy efforts in the future.

New Business:

Action Item- The Confidentiality of Library Records Policy was presented by Mr. Thomas. He said the Legal Committee had vetted it. He recommended one change in the language. "Legal Committee" should be changed to "Legal Counsel." Ms. Koons asked if the policy would allow the library to investigate any crimes that affected staff or patrons while at the library. Mr. Thomas explained that there is a provision in the policy that will enable us to do that. Ms. Bazzarri motioned to accept the changes, Ms. Radzieski seconded, and the motion passed.

Resolution- Mr. Thomas asked for a resolution that commits the library to address, to the best of its ability, safety concerns with traffic in the vicinity of the Nancy Kay Holmes Branch. Mr. Hailstone approved the language. Mr. McCabe made a motion, and Ms. Quinn seconded it, and the motion passed.

Old Business:

Mr. Thomas provided an update on the Strategic Plan.

The Friends' Report was presented by Dr. Ginsberg. A sidewalk book sale is scheduled for July 16th. The rain date will be July 23rd. Proceeds will benefit The NKH Renovation project. The May book sale netted \$5420, surpassing the last 15 sales. A bus trip is being discussed. Dr. Ginsberg forwarded a written e-mail to all the members of the Board of Trustees suggesting that we dedicate our beautiful, grassy, green lawn adjacent to our ornate front entrance to serve as a pleasant, friendly, out-of-doors ideal gathering spot, reading venue, or just a quiet spot to rest.

As we evolve, we might consider enriching our comfortable open space by establishing, attractive, meaningful activities such as chamber music, chess tournaments, art displays or holiday, and national or local themed book cart.

Studies have shown that a visual connection to the out of doors increases focus and productivity and provides a sense of well-being. Spaces with access to natural light can have rejuvenating benefits for library users and staff.

The library occupies a unique place in our neighborhood and connecting with community members in a healthy, relaxed, and open-air environment buttresses the perception of the library as a welcoming establishment for all and a significant and valuable asset to the community.

Mr. Thomas commented that additional benches could be purchased.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Quinn and seconded by Dr. Ginsberg; the meeting adjourned at 4:47 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2022, at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Bazzarri, Secretary