

SCRANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

September 15, 2022

The Board of Trustees of the Scranton Public Library meeting was held on Thursday, September 15, 2022, in the Henkelman Room and virtually. The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. by President Dr. Mayers.

Present:

Dr. Kenneth Mayers,  
President

Ms. Sharon Quinn,  
Vice-President

Ms. Karen Bazzarri,  
Secretary

Ms. Elizabeth Bohan

Mr. John Cowder

Dr. Daniel Ginsberg

Mr. Jim Henkelman

Ms. Glynis Johns

Ms. Linda Koons

Atty. Brian Lenahan

Ms. Betsey Moylan

Ms. Laurel Radzieski

Also:

Mr. Scott Thomas,  
Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Michele Legate,  
District Consultant

Ms. Barbara McGee,  
Friends of the  
Scranton Public Library Liaison

Ms. Joan Hodowanitz, LCLS Board

Ms. Jenny Shoener,  
Assistant to the CEO

Absent:

Mr. Joseph Garvey, Treasurer

Ms. Mary Beth D'Andrea

Mr. William Davis

Atty. Jaime Hailstone

Mr. Tim McCabe

Rabbi Dovid Rosenberg

Dr. Mayers asked if anyone had questions regarding the August Consent Agenda items. Mr. Henkelman made a motion to accept the Minutes of the August meeting, the August Treasurer's Report, the August Statistics Report, and the CEO Report as printed. Dr. Ginsberg seconded, and the motion passed.

## Communication and Public Comment:

### Correspondence:

Mr. Thomas included a letter written by a library patron. In her letter, she shares the impact Story Time with Cal had on her children, and how she feels a Cal mascot would be an asset to the library and the community.

The cost for the costume is \$3,200, and the Friends' have offered to pay for the costume. Trademarking may be an issue. Mr. Thomas will contact Atty. Hinton for guidance.

### Public Comment:

Ms. Hodowanitz mentioned WNEP's coverage on our Makerspace. WNEP's Elizabeth Worthington interviewed SPL staff during her live segments. Since airing this morning, staff has received numerous calls inquiring about booking the service.

The Finance Committee Report was presented by Mr. Thomas on behalf of Mr. Garvey. The Finance Committee will meet with the LCLS board to discuss the 2023 preliminary budget. Investments are still trending downward, but the Nancy Kay Holmes Branch fund has increased due to the renovation campaign. The Finance Committee will meet with the Wells-Fargo advisor again to review investments.

The Facilities Committee Report was presented by Mr. Cowder with nothing new to report on Albright's roofing project. The water issue in the basement of the Albright has been remediated by maintenance staff. The cause may be a blockage in the dry wells. Mr. Thomas is waiting to hear back from Keating Brothers Plumbing. The Nancy Kay Holmes Branch renovation project's budget has been reviewed and prioritized by Mr. Cowder and Mr. Thomas. Silkman House- There was a walkthrough meeting with the Facilities Committee to view the state of the building. Many problems were found. The Board discussed possibly vacating the property and moving to another leased location. Mr. Henkelman suggested that the cost of fixing the current building be established. Mr. Thomas will discuss the situation with Ms. Garm at LCLS since the Technical Services operation is funded via a separate allocation.

The Fundraising Committee Report was presented by Ms. Quinn. The Nancy Kay Holmes Renovation Kick-off event is on Saturday, September 17, 2022. This will begin the public portion of fundraising efforts. Ann and David Hawk will be announced as Honorary Co-Chairs. Confirmed speakers will be Mr. Thomas, Mr. Cowder, Ms. Quinn, and author Glenna Lang. Austin Burke's painting is being used for PR purposes and fundraising. A gala will showcase the artwork in January or early spring. The campaign has received approximately \$146,000 in funds, and businesses are now being approached. Mr. Thomas mentioned that the Annual Appeal would begin in November. He recommended that revenue not be diverted to the Renovation project as the revenue is needed for the 2022 operating budget.

The Governance Committee Report was presented by Atty. Lenahan. There is still one open board position; the committee is looking for applicants.

The Public Relations Committee Report was presented by Mr. Thomas on behalf of Mr. Davis. Makerspace received coverage by WNEP, and the Scranton Times featured an article. American Rescue Plan Act funding being used to fund new technology and upgraded computer systems throughout LCLS. Because of the increase in State Aid, LCLS will be funding newspaper ads and upgrading to Library Aware for email blasts.

The Bookmobile Replacement Committee Report was presented by Ms. Bazzarri. The budget for the new vehicle is still being discussed by the LCLS Board and Lackawanna County. Once a new vehicle is in place, the current Bookmobile can be disposed of.

Ms. Quinn and Mr. Thomas gave the Nancy Kay Holmes Steering Committee Report during the Fundraising Report.

The District Consultant's Report was given by Ms. Legate below in New Business.

#### New Business:

Ms. Legate created an eBook Collection Policy to address potential challenges in the NEPA Digital Library. This is important because, as the District Center, the SPL Board would have the final say in any challenges that cannot be resolved. The Governance Committee made a motion to accept the new policy as presented. All members present were in favor, and the motion passed.

A discussion about a Public Comment Policy followed. Mr. Thomas asked Ms. Legate to talk about issues experienced by another library over how long members of the public can speak and what they can say. It was decided to table this so Mr. Thomas can explore policies used by other entities such as Scranton City Council.

#### Old Business:

Mr. Thomas updated the Board on "Vine Street Commons" idea advanced by Mr. McCabe at the last meeting and submitted by him to Speck and Associates to be considered for the Scranton Walkability Study. There has been no word yet.

The Friends' Report was presented by Ms. McGee. The Friends Book Sale raised \$5,209. The sale coincided with First Friday and was listed on First Friday's Map. Author Roe Ferguson Robertson was featured but had low foot traffic. Library Express has the author's books for sale. Amy Walsh is the next

author scheduled for the group, and the event will be held on a Saturday. It was suggested that book sales be set up on Sundays, allowing student volunteers to assist. Boscov's annual "Friends Helping Friends" fundraising event is on October 19. The Friends will provide four volunteers for Renovation Kick-off and have agreed to pay for the Cal costume with the request of being present at its debut.

Dr. Ginsberg will host a 2-hour workshop, "The Longevity Challenge-How to Live to be 100." at the library. It will be held in a classroom format, and planning is still underway. A date is to be determined.

Trustee Ms. Bohan shared the details of an upcoming Fringe Festival in partnership with the Children's Library. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Koons and seconded by Dr. Ginsberg; the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2022, at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Bazzarri". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Karen Bazzarri

Secretary