

**SCRANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

May 16, 2024

The Board of Trustees of the Scranton Public Library met in person and virtually on Thursday, May 16, 2024. Ms. Quinn called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM.

**Present:**

Ms. Sharon Quinn,  
*President*

Ms. Karen Bazzarri,  
*Vice-President*

Mr. Tim McCabe,  
*Secretary*

Dr. George Aulisio

Elizabeth Bohan

Atty. Pat Clark

Ms. Anita Cola

Mr. John Cowder

Dr. Daniel Ginsberg

Mr. Jim Henkelman

Ms. Glynis Johns

Ms. Linda Koons

Atty. Brian Lenahan

Dr. Kenneth Mayers

**Also:**

Mr. Scott Thomas,  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Ms. Jenny Shoener,  
*Assistant to the CEO*

Ms. Michele Legate,  
*District Consultant*

**Absent:**

Mr. Joseph X. Garvey,  
*Treasurer*

Mr. William Davis

Atty. Jaime Hailstone

Ms. Mary Beth D'Andrea

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

**Public Comment:**

Ms. Joan Hodowanitz

**April Consent Agenda Items:** Ms. Quinn asked if anyone had questions regarding the April Consent Agenda items. **Action Item:** Ms. Koons motioned to accept April's Minutes, Treasurer's Report, Statistical Report, and the CEO Report as printed. Dr. Ginsberg seconded, and the motion passed.

**CEO Report:** Mr. Thomas shared that Lackawanna County Commissioners Matt McGloin and William Gaughan visited on Monday, April 29th, at 10 AM and received a tour of Albright and Children's Library.

**Communications**

**Correspondence:** Laurel Radzieski sent a letter of resignation from the Board of Trustees. Ms. Radzieski served on the Board for the past two years and prior to that served on the Friends of the Scranton Public Library Board. Having moved from Scranton to the City of Reading in Berks County, to accept a position at Alvernia University, Ms. Radzieski has decided to shift her focus to her new community.

**Public Comment:** Ms. Hodowanitz inquired about the start date for the plastic bag collection for the Eagle Scout bench project at Nancy Kay Holmes Library. The collection is expected to begin early this summer, but a date has not been set yet.

**Finance Committee Report:** Mr. Thomas shared that investments have decreased and will continue to do so now that construction has begun at the Nancy Kay Holmes Library. Final sales at Library Express exceeded the budget by 60%, bringing the operational level to \$37,000 and the deficit to \$37,000.

**Facilities Committee Report:** Mr. Cowder reported the following building updates-  
**Albright Building:** Nothing new to report.

**Nancy Kay Holmes Branch:** The Renovation Project bid opening occurred today at the commissioner's office. The bid tabulation form has been shared. Mr. Thomas and Mr. Cowder will evaluate all the bids. An additional board meeting is scheduled for May 23 at 2 PM, during which the Board will present a recommendation. This recommendation will be presented to the Commissioners Board on May 29.

**Silkman House:** Nothing new to report.

**Fundraising Committee Report:** Mr. Thomas reported that Swingin' on Vine is the primary fundraising focus. Sponsorship funds are coming in, and Mr. Thomas thanked the board for their help. It was suggested that if selling merchandise at Albright is pursued, it will fall under the responsibility of the Fundraising Committee.

**Governance Committee Report:** Atty. Lenahan expressed gratitude to Ms. Radzieski for her years of service. With her resignation, a position on the Board is now available, and the Committee is open to recommendations.

**Public Relations Committee Report:** Mr. Thomas reported that Mr. Davis confirmed Lamar would donate billboards at multiple locations for Swingin' on Vine. An interview with WVIA is being scheduled, and WILK will also be approached to schedule airtime. The Nancy Kay Holmes Library will have new hours beginning on June 1. The branch will be open from 9 AM to 7 PM, Monday through Thursday, and from 9 AM to 5 PM on Friday. Saturday hours will be introduced once the building renovations are completed. The Gift of a Book flyer and form have been modernized to encourage donations.

**Nancy Kay Holmes Steering Committee Report:** Mr. Thomas reported pursuing a grant to fund the library's new furniture. Updates to follow. Ms. Quinn shared the "Heart to Art" mural project outcome at Pretzel Park. After the June Board meeting at 5 PM, the mural will be available to board members who wish to join in completing it. Additionally, the Friends of the Scranton Public Library board members are invited to participate in the project at 5:30 PM on the same day.

**Library Express Committee Report:** Mr. McCabe proposed retiring the Library Express Committee, with the Fundraising Committee taking over merchandise sales.

**District Consultant's Report:** Ms. Legate shared the accepted recommendations for the district-negotiated agreement. The agreement will be in effect from July 1, 2024, until June 30, 2025. It is based on receiving \$364,926 in District Library Center aid.

## **New Business**

**Law Library:** Mr. Thomas proposed assisting the County Law Library by overseeing its online databases. The Legal Committee recommended proceeding.

**Biden Presidential Library:** Mr. Thomas asked whether the Board would want to advocate for bringing the library to Scranton. The idea will be tabled unless approached.

## **Old Business**

**Strategic Plan:** Mr. Thomas reviewed the current strategic plan and what the library has accomplished. Now that the plan is soon to expire, a committee has been established to create a new plan.

**Friends of the Scranton Public Library Report:** Dr. Ginsberg announced that the next book sale is scheduled for June 4-8 at the Marketplace at Steamtown. Flyers were distributed to each Trustee to post. Now that Library Express has closed, the Friends will take deposits to NBT Bank during the sale and have been trained to use the Square point-of-sale system. They are delighted to announce their July 27 bus trip to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City is sold out. The group is also pleased to be a \$500 sponsor for Swingin' on Vine again. In addition, they have donated a basket, board members will donate baked goods, and several will work at the event even though it is at the same time as their book sale.

**Good and Welfare:** Atty. Lenahan congratulated Mr. Henkelman on achieving a hole-in-one at the Scranton County Club this past Tuesday. Dr. Ginsberg extended an invitation to his Longevity Challenge seminar, on May 19 at the Temple of Israel from 10 AM to 2 PM and spoke about the upcoming Passover holiday. He also praised the Children's Library staff and services and was impressed with their "Helping Children Cope" kits. These kits provide resources for delicate topics such as depression, deployment, and adoption.

**Adjourn:** Mr. McCabe motioned to adjourn; Ms. Bazzarri seconded, and the motion passed. The meeting ended at 4:48 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for June 27, 2024, at 3:30 P.M.

*An in-person tour of the Children's Library followed the meeting.*

Respectfully Submitted,



Tim McCabe  
Secretary