

Starr Library Board of Trustee Meeting

April 27, 2020

Minutes

Trustees Present: George Baker, Ronnie Citron-Fink, Shea Dean, Paul Higgins, Jill Horn, Al Ragucci, Lisa Reticker, Donna Warner, Karen Unger, Director Stephen Cook

Trustees Absent: David Lavallee

Friends Representative: Stephen Frost

- I. Meeting called to order by President Al Ragucci at 5:34 P.M. *This meeting was held via Zoom due to the coronavirus pandemic.*

Al asked Stephen about applying for the Payroll Protection Act. Karen Unger mentioned applying for FEMA money. Stephen said that he was told from other sources that neither would be a good source of money for Starr. Karen mentioned a May 5 webinar for Library boards held by Rebekkah Smith Aldrich from Mid-Hudson Library and suggested that some of us plan to attend.

- II. **Secretary's Report:** Minutes of February 2020 meeting reviewed. Motion to accept: Ronnie, Karen 2nd. Passed unanimously.

- III. **Treasurer's Report:** February 2020 report reviewed.

Al referred participants to read David's treasurer's report, which was mailed before the meeting, as David could not attend today's meeting.

Motion to accept the treasurer's report: Jill, Lisa 2nd. Passed unanimously.

Stephen Cook mentioned that the library recently received a \$101K donation from a local estate.

- IV. **Director's Report:**

Director noted that we are trying out an online story hour tomorrow. He said we are partnering with Oblong. Residents of Rhinebeck can send Starr an email requesting a book. Library will buy it from Oblong at a 30 percent discount. Oblong will mail the book to the requester who will then return it to the library after reading. It will be added to the circulating collection.

Director noted that Oblong has six boxes of slightly damaged books that he plans to put in front of the library for people to take. Karen asked Stephen to check to make sure that it wouldn't be too risky for patrons to touch books that have been touched by others during the pandemic. Stephen said he would look into it.

It was reiterated that the 414 vote will be postponed.

V. **Friends Report:** Steven Frost said that a book seller from NJ came through, and that Margaret Carter showed him books in the storeroom, and the book seller bought \$500 worth. Friends have not met since February. It's not clear when the next book sale will be.

VI. **Claims and warrants:** Motion to accept: Jill, 2nd Karen. Passed unanimously.

VII. **Committee Reports:**

- a. Long Range Planning committee: Donna noted that there is nothing to report. The assumption is that the plan is on hold. Stephen noted that he had exchanged emails with Paul, who understands that the project is stalled for now. It was agreed that it would be good to get the stakeholder's report done. Stephen said he'd get in touch with Paul and ask him about it. Donna also asked Stephen to figure out what percentage of the contract had been completed. He said he'd ask Dagmar but that he thought it was a small percentage.
- b. Nominating committee. Lisa said that she, George and Donna had researched how boards should do self-evaluations. She sent out such evaluations to all the board members at the last meeting and has only gotten one back, from Jill. She asked people to fill them out by Friday and take a picture of them and send them to Lisa via text. Lisa said she had told the proposed new board member what we are doing and that she was OK (patient) with the process. Lisa suggested that she would schedule a meeting with the nominating committee for next week.
- c. Buildings and Grounds. Stephen said that Meg Crawford and the tree commission would cut down old walnut trees and plant some new trees on the grounds with the help of Dave's Tree Service. The library is publicizing the fact that it is offering wi-fi even while it is closed. (People can use the wifi standing outside the library.)
- d. Personnel committee: Stephen said he would give staff their evaluations in person when possible rather than mailing them.

VIII. **Old Business**

None.

IX. **New Business**

Donna asked if there could be more frequent communications – perhaps a weekly rather than a monthly newsletter. Stephen said Nan would begin doing so this month, filling it with items that she posts elsewhere on Social Media.

Shea raised the idea of a penpal program between Rhinebeck school kids and local nursing home residents. Stephen said he would consider it.

X. Motion to adjourn: 6:33 P.M. by George, 2nd Karen. Passed unanimously.