

## **Starr Library Board of Trustee Meeting**

March 22, 2021 Minutes

**Trustees Present:** George Baker, David Lavalley, Shea Dean, Al Ragucci, Ronnie Citron-Fink, Donna Warner, Martha Gershun, Karen Unger, Kat Melo, Craig Oleszewski and Director Stephen Cook

**Trustees Absent:** Lisa Reticker.

**Also Present:** Rebeka Smith Aldrich,

Executive Director Mid-Hudson Library Association

*I. Meeting called to order by President Al Ragucci at 5:36 P.M. This meeting was held via Zoom due*

*to the coronavirus pandemic.*

### II. New Business

- Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Executive Director Mid-Hudson Library Association, presented on the Roles and Responsibilities of Board members.
- Al mentioned reinstating a trustee evaluation system. Stephen mentioned wanting to have a new process to evaluate the director that involves more collaboration with the personnel committee, rather than just a set of anonymous comments with no opportunity to reply.

III. **Secretary's Report:** Minutes of February meeting reviewed. Motion to accept: David. George <sup>nd</sup>

2 . Passed unanimously.

IV. **Treasurer's Report:** David Lavalley reported that the library received an additional \$3,000 donation, \$10,000 from the Friends (it will be in next month's report), and the 414 check. David said that we are running right with our budget, that our endowment is doing terrific in a safer mix of investments. Karen said that the fundraising committee is supporting Stephen in his "needs and wants," while being mindful of his limited time.

<sup>nd</sup>

Motion to accept treasurer's report: Donna. Martha 2 . Passed unanimously.

V. **Director's Report:** Stephen reported that we now need fewer signatures (25 down from 300) to get on the ballot. That means that it's much easier to get on the ballot but limits our ability to talk to the public about it. The timeframe is compressed as well. Donna suggested figuring out a way to sell the idea to the public. Stephen mentioned putting

together a campaign with a FaceBook page, brochure, and other outreach materials, but these cannot be paid for by the library. Al suggested the PR committee and Fundraising committee working together to do this

- **Children’s programmer** – Stephen said that he will call promising candidates and set up interviews next week.
- **Website** – Stephen said that Ronnie suggested the cost of redoing the website could cost more than \$5,000 but that he and Shea have compiled a list of web developers. Stephen is whittling down the list and we will try to get estimates from those people and see how much it will cost and whether we will need to allot more money for this job.

c. **Paint, Carpeting** -- Stephen said that he has someone he knows scheduled to come by to do interior painting, that we are “on his radar.”

- **Stripe Parking Lot Painting** – Stephen said that this would happen in the next couple of weeks.
- **Lighting** – Another 15-year-old lamppost fell over. Paul Mays says new light posts might cost \$3,000 apiece. We might need nine of them. He has some funds from the Frost Memorial Fund to spend but might need more money from the Board. He and the Buildings and Grounds committee are deciding on which lights to get and where they should go.

VI. **Friends Report:** Stephen Cook reported that the Friends made \$3,800 from a recent reduced- capacity book sale. Stephen also said that the Friends gave its \$10,000 annual pledge to the library and may have another sale.

VII. **Claims and warrants:** Motion to approve: David. Second, Ronnie. Passed unanimously.

VIII. **Committee Reports:**

- **Long Range Planning** – Donna said that she created and shared by email a document about the library’s values that grew out of listening to the recording of the special Vision meeting the Board held on March 9. She invited board members to comment on this document by April 8; she wants one person to take ownership for each goal area rather than assigning the goal areas to committees; that person should gather any people to help with establishing three goals for each goal area by April 15.
- **Nominating Committee** – George reported that he reworked the nomination form and sent it out for us.

IX. **Old business:** Stephen made a pitch for going fine-free. He would like the board to pass a resolution to go fine-free. He said that Woodstock has been fine-free for years, that Burlington, VT, and other libraries have done so as well, and that the community like this policy. He said that there’s evidence that materials come back at the same rate as when there are fines, and that low-income people avoid the library once they reach a certain level of fines. Motion to eliminate library fines: Al, Karen, second. Motion carries.

**X. Correspondence** – AI read Board Member Lisa Reticker’s resignation letter. Motion to accept Lisa’s resignation with regret approved.

**XI. Motion to adjourn:** Meeting ended at 7:32pm. Motion to approve, Craig; Second, Ronnie.

Next Meeting Monday, April 19, 5:30 PM Submitted by Shea Dean