

STARR LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

68 WEST MARKET STREET

RHINEBECK, NY 12572

NOTICE OF MEETING Thursday, December, 16, 2021, 5:30 PM

Trustees Present: David Lavallee, Shea Dean, Donna Warner, Laura Selicaro, Karen Unger, Craig Oleszewski (via Zoom), Madhu Tadikonda, and Director Stephen Cook

Friends Representative: Stephen Frost.

I. Call to order and review of agenda

Donna asked about the board self-evaluation. David said that we didn't have time to deal with it at this meeting, that we will go over it in January, perhaps at a Saturday retreat.

David honored Donna Warner for six years of service on the board. Everyone agreed that she did invaluable work getting the Long-Range Plan completed, among other things.

Eric Steinman and Andrew Schulkind introduced themselves as prospective new trustees.

II. Vote on nominees for trustee

Break for Executive session Executive session ends. Regular board meeting reconvenes.

Eric and Andrew join the board of trustees.

III. Public Comment Period

One woman raised her objection to the rumor that the trustees want to end the book sales. Another gentleman chimed in. David said that the idea that trustees wanted to end the book sales was indeed a rumor. David Miller of the Rhinebeck Historical Society got up to ask whether the proposed renovation would affect the Historical Society room. David said that at this point no, but if the renovation affected the historical society room, then he would be informed. A former president of the board suggested that the long-range plan be described in the monthly newsletter in addition to being posted on the website. She suggested that David write the library's constituents to tell them what is going on. She said she didn't think that the recent fundraising letter was effective. She suggested that the board look into the history of the Friends. She asked what it meant in the March 2021 minutes that we were looking for a safer mix of investments for our endowment. David explained that we dialed back our risk and have earned essentially the same return. She also asked why we called a 414 vote. David explained the reasoning behind the need for extra money, including the increased hours for the children's programmer and inflation.

IV. Secretary's Report-Minutes from November meeting.

a. Motion to accept the November minutes, Karen. Second Laura. Passed unanimously.

V. Treasurer's Report – attached.

- a. David said that because we paid ahead for insurance and propane, those expenses appear as two negatives on the budget but that will be made up for in subsequent months because we will not have to pay them.

VI. Consideration of 2022 Budget in Executive Session

Executive session begins and ends.

Motion to approve the 2022 budget: Karen, Second Madhu. Passed unanimously.

VII. Director's Report – attached

Stephen reported that we got a Dyson grant to pay for Paul Mays' work and that he was filling out the paperwork. He reported that we had a full audit completed this year for the first time since 2006 and he suggested that we do it more often going forward. David suggested that organizations like ours do this every 4 or 5 years. Stephen reported that "Notes of Care" has resumed, with Tara providing art materials to kids to write notes to local residents who are homebound. He also mentioned that we are working with the help of a new staffer to be an autism support community. He also said we were starting an "Ask a Vet" program.

VIII. Friends' Report

Stephen Frost said that the recent book sale raised \$5,540. To date the Friends have given \$26,100 to the library.

IX. Claims and Warrants

- a. Motion to approve payments of claims and warrants Karen, second Craig. Passed unanimously.

X. Standing Committee Reports – Attached

XI. Correspondence

- a. **Stephen read some holiday cards that contained warm thoughts for the Library staff.**

XII. Old Business

A. Long-range Planning Committee

Donna said that we need to have a condensed (six-page) long-range plan posted on the website by the end of the year per state requirements. David and Martha are reviewing it with Stephen and Brooke. Donna said that she bumped incomplete 2021 projects on the LRP to 2022. She said she had devised an easier monitoring mechanism to keep track of goals and actions.

B. Search for adult programmer

Stephen said that Tara, Katie (a new part-time staffer), Brooke, and others are working on the job description. Tara is getting input from other local libraries about their best practices for programming. Shea asked about the publicity piece; Stephen suggested that the adult and children's programmer would publicize their own programs, but it remains to be seen who will do the overall publicity for the library. Karen asked to see if we could list the adult programmer position more quickly. Stephen said he would try.

XIII. New Business - Director Evaluation – President *David Lavallee* calls an executive session... *Executive session ends.*

XII. Adjournment

Meeting is called back to order. Motion to adjourn: David, Second Shea. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Next Meeting Date January 27, 5:30 PM