

STARR LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

68 WEST MARKET STREET

RHINEBECK, NY 12572

NOTICE OF MEETING Thursday, February 24, 5:30 PM

Trustees Present: David Lavalley, Shea Dean, Donna Warner, Laura Selicaro, Eric Steinman, Andrew Schulkind, Karen Unger, Craig Oleszewski, Madhu Tadikonda, and Director Stephen Cook, Assistant Director Brooke Stevens

Friends Representative: Stephen Frost.

- I. Call to order and review of agenda
- II. Public Comment Period
 - a. Member of the public asked to have information about what happens to trustees who just “disappear” (term limits, resignations, etc.) – David agreed to have that noted in the minutes. She also said that according to the bylaws , the board of trustees should govern, not manage, the library. David reported that we will soon be having a board retreat to discuss our roles and responsibilities in that regard.
- III. Secretary’s Report-Minutes from January meeting
Motion to accept: Martha. Second, Karen. Passed unanimously.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report – attached
 - a. Stephen reported that we just got our check from the town, \$394K. He noted that we are ahead of last year financially. Motion to accept, Karen. Second Craig. Passed unanimously.
- V. Director’s Report – attached
 - a. Stephen reported that circulation is rising in all media over last year. He noted that the number of Overdrive users is growing, and that he and Brooke are considering this upward trend in their purchasing decisions. He noted that they are reducing the purchase of books, CDs and DVDs.
 - b. He added that it is Library Advocacy week and encouraged us to contact our representatives (Sue Serino and Kevin Cahill) and encourage them to support libraries with increased public funding. He noted that he and Brooke would be having a Zoom meeting with Sue Serino on Monday.
 - c. Stephen encouraged trustees to attend Drag Queen story hour on March 5 at 2pm. Eric Steinman asked what Starr does to support the LGBTQ community beyond this single event; Stephen noted that Starr and Red Hook had partnered pre-Covid in cohosting a support group for LGBTQ youth.
Motion to accept: Karen. Second Madhu. Passed unanimously.
- VI. Friends’ Report
Stephen Frost said that the Friends will be holding an art sale in a Montgomery Row gallery during the month of March. He encouraged Trustees to attend and buy art. He said that there would be an opening reception to which Board members and the wider public would get invitations.
- VII. Claims and Warrants-Motion to approve payments of claims and warrants
 - a. Motion to accept Karen, second Martha. Passed unanimously.

VIII. Standing Committee Reports – Attached

- a. PR – David noted that he talked to Rebekah Smith Aldrich about model patron satisfaction surveys.
- b. Fundraising – Karen noted that Martha joined the committee. Stephen which aspects of fundraising the staff should be responsible for, and which aspects the boards should take care of? Karen said that this depends on staffing and should be discussed.
- c. Buildings and Grounds – Craig said that he wanted to explore moving the handicapped parking spots so that disabled patrons don't have to go uphill to get to the entrance; he proposed to put these spaces nearer the front door.
- d. LRP: Martha reported that she and Shea met to choose the Long Range Plan goals from the larger LRP Monitoring Report that could be achieved in the next few months. Martha requested feedback before the next board meeting. Motion to approve: Laura. Second, Karen. Passed unanimously.

IX. Correspondence -None

X. Old Business

A. Long-range Planning Committee, next steps (covered in VIII)

B. Search for adult programmer - David said that Rebekah said it was a good idea to hire someone ASAP, if there is a viable candidate. Stephen and Brooke said they would look at the resumes that they've received. Stephen also said that he would look into getting our job posting featured in the MHLS newsletter. Shea asked about NYLA's job listings; Stephen said it might be overkill – the site is generally for higher level positions -- but that he'd look into it.

XI. New Business

A. Board Retreat, proposal to move it to March 27 or April 3

David noted that we have postponed the Board Retreat due to continued concerns about Covid. We hope to get a larger space at Bard for one of the dates above. He described the content of the Board Retreat: Trustee Handbook review, Bylaw review, and vision and mission exercises.

B. Trustee Orientation, March 10, 5:30pm

Stephen Cook said that he and David would put together an agenda to familiarize board members with the workings of the library prior to this date.

XII. Public Comment Period

One member of the public, Beverly Kane, said that she was happy that the Board is looking to improve the handicapped parking setup, and she recommended that we include someone who uses a wheelchair in discussions of the renovation.

Another Friend suggested that we mourn the recent passing of former Trustee Bill Dowden.

A member of the public, Julie Zito, recommended further actions to make the library more accessible to disabled users. She also suggested that we publicize this position as a way to educate people about this issue. She asked if the Director position is a tenured position; Stephen said that no, that the director serves at the will of the board.

XIII. Adjournment - Move to adjourn Martha, Second Karen. Passed unanimously. Meeting ended at 6:30pm.

Next Meeting Date: March 24, 5:30 PM