**STARR LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**68 WEST MARKET STREET**

**RHINEBECK, NY 12572**

**NOTICE OF MEETING Thursday, April 28, 5:30 PM**

Trustees Present: David Lavallee, Shea Dean, Laura Selicaro, Andrew Schulkind, Karen

Unger, Craig Oleszewski, Eric Steinman, and Director Stephen Cook

Trustees Absent: Madhu Tadikonda

Friends Representative: Stephen Frost.

1. Call to order and review of agenda
2. Public Comment Period

Peter X discussed his pro bono technological work for the library – phones and internet. He said he was “concerned” about the direction the library is going. He offered to be a “diplomat” to foster dialogue between the board and the community.

1. Secretary’s Report-Minutes from March meeting

Karen summarized the minutes from March meeting. Motion to accept the minutes: Craig. Second, Laura. Passed unanimously.

1. Treasurer’s Report – attached
   1. David said that we spent 50K this month, slightly more than usual. We spent more in book acquisition, electricity rates have doubled, more donor spending. The roof repair and new front door expenses were discussed. The Buildings and Grounds committee approved the work last year.
   2. David said that our total annual campaign donations total $54K, up 5 percent from last year. He said that we will transfer a portion of that to the endowment and take back 60K (4 percent). He said that the endowment is doing well.

Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report: Laura. Second, Craig. Passed unanimously.

1. Director’s Report – attached

Michelle Montalbano has been hired to take over from Dave Wanzer at the circulation desk and will be doing some adult programming. She introduced herself and discussed her background at the Brooklyn Public Library organizing events and working as a reference library. She has a lot of programs in the works: creative writing workshop with a Pushcart Prize winner, film screening with Tara, walking tour with Historical Society. Stephen reported that Mike Frazier was delighted to be contacted by Michelle to do history stuff.

Karen Unger asked why the Dutchess County American Rescue Plan grant we got for the Charlie cart was not going to be used, that the expansion committee felt that it took up too much room. We got $10,000 of funding for it. Karen suggested that we contact Dutchess County to submit an amended budget with an alternative proposed use of the funds. Laura suggested that we spend some of that amount for more comfortable chairs. Stephen said that the staff would meet to discuss new ideas to take the place of the Charlie Cart. Martha suggested that the staff contact Dutchess County right away to discuss the change, and Karen concurred that they should do so *this week*.

1. Friends’ Report – Stephen reported that the Friends made $700 from its art show on Montgomery Row.
2. Claims and Warrants-Motion to approve payments of claims and warrants

Craig asked about worker’s comp insurance costs. Dagmar clarified that we had underpaid in previous years by $4000 and were paying that now.

Motion to accept: Martha, Second Karen.

1. Standing Committee Reports – Oral
   1. PR – Shea said that Andrew had gotten the board members starrlibrary.org email addresses but that we would start using Google Groups later. She said that she would start populating a shared calendar.
   2. Laura asked whether anyone was posting to Rhinebeck Moms and Dads.
   3. Nominating – David reported that Madhu probably would resign from the board due to job obligations. We talked about needing to replace him (if he resigns) and then also getting two more candidates to bring our number up to 11.
2. Ad Hoc Committee Reports - Search Committee and Facelift Working Group
   1. David reported on the group overseeing the “facelift” of the basement space. David said that we’ve scaled down our original plan to just include painting the folding doors, walls, bookshelves, adding artwork. David said that he’d look into window treatments. David said we’d decided not to do the heat. He said we’d replace the bulbs with warmer lights, perhaps a Japanese screen in front of the bathroom doors; replace the Friends’ desk with something more attractive. He said we might be able to get started on this work after this weekend’s book sale. Stephen said that he would get two painters to offer bids. Shea suggested Flor tiles and David suggested that she forward those ideas to the committee.
3. **Correspondence** 
   1. **None**

**X.** Old Business

A. Board Retreat, Session with Rebekkah Smith-Aldrich

David suggested that we have a couple hour Zoom meeting with R. Smith-Aldrich and have a more extensive board retreat once we have a new director. Karen said she had discussed this with Rebekkah. Laura suggested that we meet in person and have R. Smith-Aldrich Zoom in. David concurred that this would be better as it would allow us to discuss the meeting after Rebekkah left.

B. Search committee – David discussed that we’ve been busy and that we received applications from 8 qualified candidates. He said that we picked out two outstanding candidates that the search committee interviewed by Zoom last week, and with whom we would schedule in-person interviews with the whole board next week and the public. David discussed the format for the board and then public interviews next week. 5:30-6:15 with the board, then 6:15 with the public. He said that in the public part, each of the candidates would give a 15-20 minute presentation followed by questions from the public. He said that the public portion of this meeting would be publicized on the website. Both candidates need health insurance to take the job. David said that 6 other association libraries in MHLS offer their directors health insurance and that we could do so as well, at a mid-level plan. We are also eligible for the plan offered by the New York Council of Nonprofits, which might be preferable. For $130 / year we can join, and they offer a bunch of other benefits such as free professional development for staff, board management / leadership training

XII. New Business

XIII. Public Comment Period

Peter asked what’s happening with the handicapped ramp. Shea asked about Summer Reading Program. Stephen said that Tara was working on it, that it the Summer Rec program kids were the “built in” audience but that it would be open to the public with some events on Saturdays that would be “publicized widely.”

XIV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Karen, Second, Craig. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

Next Meeting Date May 26, 5:30 PM